

الجمعة 23 مايو 1996

page 15  
page 15  
Best  
road job  
screen

Thursday May 23 1996

Abu Dhabi D 8.50	Hong Kong HK\$ 25	Osaka JP 100
Almaty L 1.20	London W 1.00	Palatine P 7.00
Amsterdam A 1.00	Madrid M 1.00	Paris F 5.00
Ankara AS 2.00	Moscow M 1.00	Portugal P 2.00
Bahamas B 1.00	New York N 1.00	Russia R 2.00
Bangkok B 1.00	Osaka O 1.00	South Africa S 1.00
Beijing B 1.00	Seoul S 1.00	Spain S 1.00
Berlin B 1.00	Singapore S 1.00	Sweden S 1.00
Bombay B 1.00	Taipei T 1.00	Switzerland S 1.00
Buenos Aires B 1.00	Tokyo T 1.00	Thailand T 1.00
Calcutta C 1.00	Ulaanbaatar U 1.00	Turkey T 1.00
Canberra C 1.00	Washington W 1.00	USA US\$ 2.00
Chennai C 1.00	Zurich Z 1.00	Zimbabwe Z 1.00
Dhaka D 1.00		
Dubai D 1.00		
Frankfurt F 1.00		
Geneva G 1.00		
Helsinki H 1.00		
Jakarta J 1.00		
Kuala Lumpur K 1.00		
London L 1.00		
Manila M 1.00		
Mumbai M 1.00		
Nairobi N 1.00		
Osaka O 1.00		
Paris P 1.00		
Seoul S 1.00		
Singapore S 1.00		
Taipei T 1.00		
Tokyo T 1.00		
Ulaanbaatar U 1.00		
Washington W 1.00		
Zurich Z 1.00		
Zimbabwe Z 1.00		

# The Guardian INTERNATIONAL

Printed in London, Manchester, Frankfurt and Roubaix

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR  
46,580

Matthew Engel's pilgrimage

## Shalom Israel

G2 with European weather



Mike Leigh's Secrets and Lies reviewed

## After all the fuss... what's it really like?

Screen pages 8/9



OnLine

## Engineering the 21st century

G2 pages 10/11

### "Never give up unless you are just on the last little drop of life you have in you"



Jaymee Bowen with her father David on the day her identity was revealed. 'Jaymee has always had a special place in my heart because she was my first child,' he said later

Edward Pilkington and Chris Millill

**Her name was Jaymee Bowen, but she will probably always be remembered as Child B. After six years struggling against cancer, she got close to making it. A month ago observers were speculating that in six months her chances of survival were promising**

At 9.40pm on Tuesday night, while much of the nation was watching the latest episode of Murder One, a drama of a different sort was reaching its conclusion. A girl aged 11 was letting go after a six-year fight.

Her name was Jaymee Bowen, but she will probably always be remembered as Child B. And that pseudonym will probably always be seen as a symbol of a youthful determination to live.

The name was imposed by the courts in an attempt to preserve her anonymity and allow her to lead as normal an existence as she could for the little time she had left. The plan failed. Jaymee's life was not normal.

It wasn't just that she threatened to whack an NHS executive after he refused to pay for further treatment for the leukaemia that was killing her. Nor that she prompted deep soul-searching within the health service over its approach to patients diagnosed as terminally ill.

It was that in the face of repeated radiation treatment and courses of chemotherapy, with their horrible side-effects, she fought so patiently, for so long, and so hard.

She got close to making it. A month ago observers were speculating that if she lasted another six months her chances of long-term survival were good.

Then last week she began to experience breathing difficulties and was admitted to Brompton Hospital, central London. Later she was transferred to the Portland Hospital for further tests.

They revealed that myeloid leukaemia had relapsed and her condition was deteriorating fast. On Tuesday afternoon she was conscious and chatting happily; by the evening she had developed bleeding on the brain, slipped into unconsciousness and died.

On the face of it, the death of Jaymee Bowen supports the contention of NHS doctors that extra treatment would have been pointless. In January 1988, after an earlier bone marrow transplant had failed to stem the cancer, they decided that a second such operation would serve no useful purpose and would merely put her through unjustified pain from intense radiation doses and chemotherapy.

There was no gloating by the NHS yesterday that its prediction had come true. "Today is not a day for us to have any sense of vindication. This is a day for grieving; it is a desperately sad day," said Stephen Thornton, whose title is chief executive of Cambridge and Huntingdon Health Commission but who will be remembered as the bureaucrat Jaymee threatened to whack.

Vindication aside, he added that he stood by the commission's stance. "If the question is, 'do we feel the decision not to fund the second operation was the right one?' then the answer is yes. We feel that decision was right."

In the black and white world of tabloid newspaper journalism, that decision was lambasted as a callous choice of accountability over human compassion. To save £75,000 the NHS was sacrificing the chance to prolong a young girl's life.

It made great copy, and the column inches and pushing press ran and ran. "Girl sentenced to die by the NHS," blared the Daily Mirror. "What value is put on a child's life?" pontificated the Daily Telegraph.

But it was never quite that simple. The NHS did agree to pay the full cost of Jaymee's care in the private sector over the past nine months, supporting the therapeutic relationship she had built up with her Harley Street consultant, Dr Peter Gravett.

Jaymee's NHS doctors concluded that the probabilities of her benefiting from a second bone marrow transplant didn't stack up. "We never at any time said we would not pay for her care, but it was not the right thing to do," Mr Thornton said.

Logically, the NHS line was coherent. Given the constraints of health service funding, it was deemed better value for money to invest £75,000 on the well-being of many rather than on a high-risk, pain-inflicting attempt to save a dying girl.

But in this case the health service greatly underestimated one factor in its logical equation. It might not make sense to spend £75,000 on what was medically deemed a lost cause. But it does if it is your own life at stake — more so if it's that of your child.

As a result, the High Court judge who first deliberated on the Child B case, put it: "To anyone confronting the prospect of extinction in a few weeks, such a chance of longer survival must be unimaginably precious."

In Jaymee Bowen and her father, David, the NHS had met a formidable duo. David, aged 32, a divorced computer engineer from Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire, was born in Georgetown, Guyana, moving to this country with his parents when he was five.

Jaymee, born on August 5, 1984, was his oldest child. "Jaymee has always had a special place in my heart because she was my first child and I think there's a different bond between you and your first-born," he told Sarah Barclay, a Panorama reporter who has written a book on the Child B story.

Father perceived daughter as the flagship of the family and was fiercely proud of her spirited independence. "You get your fingers burned with Jaymee if you upset her; she has a very analytical mind, very inquiring, very probing."

She lived up to her reputation in October last year when she commented for the first time on her battle. "I say never give up, unless you are just on the last little drop of life you have in you. Never give up." Asked what she would do if Mr Thornton were in the room with her, she said: "I would whack him."

John Palmer in Strasbourg and Michael White

**THE Cabinet stepped up its war of words and diplomatic obstruction with the European Union yesterday, just as EU officials pledged again to fight for an early lifting of the ban on British beef byproducts.**

As the Prime Minister effectively elbowed aside Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, by setting up two new Cabinet Office committees to run his campaign to end the ban on all beef products, the Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, played to the Tory Eurosceptic gallery at home.

While welcoming the European Commission's renewed efforts to lift the ban on gelatin, tallow and bull semen as positive and supportive, Mr Rifkind admitted the Cabinet's tougher stance had been greeted with dismay and anger in other EU capitals. It will prove counterproductive, London is being told.

"The crucial point is that we didn't expect the Prime Minister's announcement to be welcomed by other countries... but we are not going to be pushed around, and that concentrates the mind wonderfully," he said.

The byproducts ban is costing British farmers £28 million a year, but the blanket ban is costing £500 million.

To the anger of Tory right-wingers, a more cautious note was persistently struck in media interviews by the cabinet's most vocal pro-European, Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor.

Despite Monday's unexpected decision by EU vets not to lift the partial ban, — a decision which the commission will now put to next month's meeting of farm ministers — there are widespread doubts that Mr Major would really block forthcoming agreements — or the Florence summit towards the end of next month.

"These problems cannot be solved by strongarm tactics or blackmail," the Italian foreign minister, Lamberto Dini, said. Sweden, which has also supported Britain over the beef ban, also warned that the EU must ensure that any British ban does not affect the work of the community.

However, EU ministers will probably vote by a sufficient majority to lift the partial ban on June 8 — or after a further delay of 15 days — the commission will invoke rarely used powers to lift it.

Major's Falklands, page 5; Labour comment, letters, page 5; Martin Kettle, page 9

## Cabinet goes on beef attack

John Palmer in Strasbourg and Michael White

THE Cabinet stepped up its war of words and diplomatic obstruction with the European Union yesterday, just as EU officials pledged again to fight for an early lifting of the ban on British beef byproducts.

As the Prime Minister effectively elbowed aside Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, by setting up two new Cabinet Office committees to run his campaign to end the ban on all beef products, the Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, played to the Tory Eurosceptic gallery at home.

While welcoming the European Commission's renewed efforts to lift the ban on gelatin, tallow and bull semen as positive and supportive, Mr Rifkind admitted the Cabinet's tougher stance had been greeted with dismay and anger in other EU capitals. It will prove counterproductive, London is being told.

"The crucial point is that we didn't expect the Prime Minister's announcement to be welcomed by other countries... but we are not going to be pushed around, and that concentrates the mind wonderfully," he said.

The byproducts ban is costing British farmers £28 million a year, but the blanket ban is costing £500 million.

To the anger of Tory right-wingers, a more cautious note was persistently struck in media interviews by the cabinet's most vocal pro-European, Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor.

Despite Monday's unexpected decision by EU vets not to lift the partial ban, — a decision which the commission will now put to next month's meeting of farm ministers — there are widespread doubts that Mr Major would really block forthcoming agreements — or the Florence summit towards the end of next month.

"These problems cannot be solved by strongarm tactics or blackmail," the Italian foreign minister, Lamberto Dini, said. Sweden, which has also supported Britain over the beef ban, also warned that the EU must ensure that any British ban does not affect the work of the community.

However, EU ministers will probably vote by a sufficient majority to lift the partial ban on June 8 — or after a further delay of 15 days — the commission will invoke rarely used powers to lift it.

Major's Falklands, page 5; Labour comment, letters, page 5; Martin Kettle, page 9



## Owen Oyston jailed for six years for rape of girl

David Ward

**THE millionaire businessman Owen Oyston was jailed for six years yesterday after being convicted of raping and indecently assaulting a 16-year-old model.**

The judge told him: "You were rich and powerful. You were young and vulnerable. I don't believe she led you on in any way."

A jury of eight women and four men found him guilty on the two counts after more than eight hours of deliberation at the end of a 20-day trial at Liverpool crown court. They acquitted him of

raping another model, aged 18 (Miss A).

Mr Oyston, aged 62 and a benefactor of the Labour Party, had denied all three charges. Dressed in a dark blue suit and wearing his Blackpool Football Club tie, he stood with his hands folded as sentence was passed.

He mouthed a message to his wife Vicki as he was led from the dock and his 25-year-old daughter, Heidi, one of his five children, fought back tears.

Mr Justice McCullough jailed Oyston for three years for indecent assault and six years for rape, the sentences to run concurrently. Passing sentence, he told Oyston: "I am prepared to assume that you

hoped your advantages of age, wealth and position would influence her to agree with what you wanted. But when it came to her, she did not."

"It is impossible to assess the extent to which Miss B has been traumatised by the events of that night."

The court had heard that during a late-night car journey in 1991, Oyston forced Miss B to have oral sex with him. When they arrived at Cloughton Hall, his manor house near Lancaster, he raped her.

The jury was told that after having had sex with another girl, he ordered Miss B to remove her clothes and get into bed. She had him still



Owen Oyston... Labour Party benefactor

### Inside

**Britain**  
Tony Blair warned his party that it had not yet won victory in the battle of ideas, the precondition for poll triumph.

**3**

### World News

**President Clinton** promised to develop a slimmed-down version of Star Wars and to keep the military ready to 'win on two fronts'.

**2**

### Finance

**Granada said** it would keep the Merlin hotels chain, but confirmed the sale of most of Forte's luxury hotel assets.

**11**

### Sport

**Steve Bruce has** been given a free transfer by Manchester United and joined Trevor Francis at Birmingham.

**15**

### Comment and Letters & Obituaries 10

**G2**  
Crossword 15; Weather 16  
Radio and TV 16

**UNSECURED PERSONAL LOANS**

Look at what our lowest rate

**13.8%**

Look at what our lowest rate

Loan Amount	APR	Monthly Repayment
£1,000	13.8%	£87.06
£2,000	13.8%	£174.12
£3,000	13.8%	£261.18
£4,000	13.8%	£348.24
£5,000	13.8%	£435.30
£6,000	13.8%	£522.36
£7,000	13.8%	£609.42
£8,000	13.8%	£696.48
£9,000	13.8%	£783.54
£10,000	13.8%	£870.60

You can take out an unsecured Personal Loan for any reason with Hamilton Direct Bank, a division of HFC Bank plc and take advantage of our attractive fixed rates:

- 13.8% APR on unsecured Personal Loans from £500 to £10,000.
- 15.9% APR on unsecured Personal Loans from £500 to £4,999.

Hamilton Direct Bank is a division of HFC Bank plc. We have the money to hand.

Hamilton Direct Bank can be found at [www.hamiltondirect.com](http://www.hamiltondirect.com). \*For generally available Personal Loans. \*Rates for business or specialist purposes are variable. \*\*Typical example: If you borrow £1,000 over 36 months at 13.8% APR, the monthly repayment is £87.06 and the total amount payable is £3,133.04. This offer is available to members of the Club of Men. A written quotation of our credit terms is available on request. All loans are subject to status. You must be aged 25 years or over and in receipt of a regular income. The maximum loan is £50k. For full security and to improve our service to you, we may request a member call made to end from Hamilton Direct Bank, a division of HFC Bank plc, an authorized mortgage under the Banking Act 1987. Registered office: 100, Cannon Street, London EC4A 3DF. Registered in England No. 01111111.

TO APPLY CALL FREE ON  
**0800 30 3000**

Quoting ref: 91422/200

Hamilton Direct Bank can be found at [www.hamiltondirect.com](http://www.hamiltondirect.com). \*For generally available Personal Loans. \*Rates for business or specialist purposes are variable. \*\*Typical example: If you borrow £1,000 over 36 months at 13.8% APR, the monthly repayment is £87.06 and the total amount payable is £3,133.04. This offer is available to members of the Club of Men. A written quotation of our credit terms is available on request. All loans are subject to status. You must be aged 25 years or over and in receipt of a regular income. The maximum loan is £50k. For full security and to improve our service to you, we may request a member call made to end from Hamilton Direct Bank, a division of HFC Bank plc, an authorized mortgage under the Banking Act 1987. Registered office: 100, Cannon Street, London EC4A 3DF. Registered in England No. 01111111.

Sketch

All quiet on the Freeman front



Simon Hoggart

There's something deeply perverse about the House of Commons. The day after the Government declared war on Europe we had to undergo one of the most narcotic sessions in the Chamber anyone could remember.

In the course of his speech he uttered what may have been the three most dreary words heard in the Chamber this year: "Seventhy, Madam Speaker..."

The trouble is, he knows he is boring. Like many of the great bores, he tells you "One of our national newspapers describes our contributions to this debate as rather sleep-inducing," he said, in the faintly piteous manner of the office crasher, who hopes you will say, "no, no, dear me, Rogart, you, boring? Why, compared to Peter Tapsall, you're almost interesting!"

Martin Walker in Washington

President Clinton promised yesterday to develop a strengthened version of Ronald Reagan's Star Wars missile shield within the next four years, and pledged to keep the United States military "prepared to fight and win on two fronts at once".

He laid out his vision of a secure and all-powerful America, whose trade and values would dominate the future, while his homeland and its far-flung garrisons of troops overseas would be protected from ballistic missile attacks.

With a peaceful, undivided Europe and a stable, prosperous Asia, with fewer nuclear weapons in the world's arsenals and tough new agreements to control chemical and biological weapons; with terrorists, organised criminals and drug traffickers on the run, not on the rampage; with more barriers to American products coming down; with more people than ever before living with the blessings of peace and democracy.

Always vulnerable on defence and military issues since his avoidance of the Vietnam war, Mr Clinton is determined to pre-empt the attacks of his Republican challenger, the second world war veteran, Senator Robert

Dole. Mr Dole has already attacked Mr Clinton for "a weak and vacillating foreign policy that disarms our allies and encourages our enemies", and has sought to make Star Wars into an important electoral theme.

But Mr Clinton argued: "The possibility of a long-range missile attack on American soil by a rogue state is more than a decade away. To prevent it, we are committed to developing by the year 2000 a defensive system that could be deployed by 2003, well before the threat becomes real."

our support, the power of our example, the resolve of our leadership," he added. "Imagine the the slaughter we would still be seeing in Bosnia if we had not brought our force to bear through Nato."

The reality in Bosnia is, however, at odds with Mr Clinton's triumphalist vision. He and the German chancellor, Helmut Kohl, meeting today in Wisconsin, are to discuss what to do if the Nato-led international peacekeeping force in the former Yugoslavia republic has not stabilised the area by the end of its mandate in about seven months.

Germany has sent a much smaller armed contingent to Bosnia than the US, Britain or France but is desperate to send home the 330,000 refugees from former Yugoslavia it still shelters.

During his US visit, Dr Kohl is due to meet the defence secretary, William Perry, and military officers. An adviser to Dr Kohl said in Bonn yesterday that the chancellor would express his views on how the security partnership between Europe and America should be expanded in the aftermath of the cold war.

The aide said it was in US interests to deepen the relationship with Europe and toward a single-minded orientation toward the Pacific rim.

In yesterday's speech, Mr Clinton pledged that America would continue to provide global leadership in the next century, as it had in this one. He rejected any return to isolationism and pledged that the US military would continue to dominate the seas, the air and space.

First night

But eastward look, it's all a blur

Michael Billington

Claustrophobia Nottingham Playhouse

Where does theatre begin? With actor, author or director, there are very few lines, but historically great theatre has stemmed from a collaborative interpretation of a written text.

While young women practise at the barre, two male students float in through the window. After exploring their ambiguous sensuality and sniffing glue, they define themselves as "ubiquists"; organisms that adapt to any form of life.

Slaughter of seals shocks family seaside resort

Martin Walkwright

ONE of Britain's leading family resorts has been shaken by the clubbing to death of seven seals, two of them found in a pool of blood near the children's corner of the town beach.

The slaughter has shocked the North Yorkshire port of Filey, which combines bucket-and-spade tourism with inshore fishing, especially for salmon and sea trout.

Marine experts and the RSPCA yesterday denounced the killings as "brutal and disgusting" and graphic picture evidence of a stabbed and blood-soaked seal has alarmed the local tourism industry.

Details of the incident were passed to the RSPCA and North Yorkshire police by Darren Taylor, aged 20, of Filey, who was with Mrs Sweeting and took photographs.

LIFE Centre, who has received details of two other attacks, said the seals' injuries included flattened snouts and deep neck wounds, as well as crushed pelts and a gaff slash.

Mr Foster appealed for public vigilance along the coast. He said: "I would still be surprised to discover that it was maverick elements of the fishing or fish-farming industry, because we have enjoyed nothing but total support here, and recognition that there is little evidence that seals have any impact on fish stocks."

'Never give up unless you are on the last drop of life'

continued from page 1 replied: "I wouldn't sit there and say anything. I would go over and watch him die."

But soon after cancer was diagnosed, his firm foundered and he was made bankrupt. When he needed cash to pay for his daughter's treatment, none was at hand.

In January 1995, when David Bowen was told by doctors his daughter had eight weeks to live, he refused to accept it. "I will walk over anything and anyone," he told Sarah Barclay. "I'll continue like a machine — I won't eat, I won't sleep, I will achieve the task. That's the way I am."

There is no way of finding a compromise between these polarised positions; no halfway ground. The logic of the NHS's position, its insistence that all that sensibly could have been done for Jaymee was done cannot be squared with David Bowen's desire to keep his child alive.

There is some comfort, perhaps, in Jaymee Bowen's death. Despite her seemingly insatiable yearning to cling on, it appears she had grown tired.

really," she said to Sarah Barclay, adding she was now prepared to die. If there was an afterlife, she wanted to come back as a butterfly. "There's nothing to be scared of, and hopefully it won't be painful."

Does someone have access to your 'highly confidential computer data'? Do you know who they are? Are you being stalked on the net? read mother of god by DAVID AMBROSE Then start worrying... A WHSMITH THUMPING GOOD READ 1996

e've on ye air w

ark point eebts

Bea

In every imp antipodes. Pacific and argumentat of its flag; la

Handwritten signature or mark

# We've not won yet, Blair warns

Patrick Wintour, Chief Political Correspondent

**T**HE Labour leader, Tony Blair, yesterday warned his party that it had not yet won victory in the battle of ideas, the necessary precondition for a electoral triumph next year.

Mr Blair has also made a dramatic appeal to intellectuals and policy makers outside the Labour Party to help to build the kind of alliance that helped Clement Attlee in 1945 and Margaret Thatcher in 1979.

Mr Blair's tough self-assessment of the slow intellectual development of Labour comes after three weeks in which the party's front bench has revealed internal schisms over key policy areas.

Writing in the monthly magazine Prospect, Mr Blair claims that the party has thrown out the dead wood and constructed the building blocks of new ideas, but concedes: "There is a pressing need for continued debate to deepen these ideas, refine them and toughen them up. People outside the party have a critical role."

"They can help us to understand the issues and forces shaping society so that we can shape the future. And they can contribute to nitty gritty policy work: it may not have the glamour of pure intellectual endeavour, but it is equally demanding."

Mr Blair also quotes the view of the influential centre-left politics professor, David Marquand, that "one of the safest rules of politics is that decisive political victories must follow ideological victories. Like armies sweeping through fortified positions, but instead of aerial bombardment, the Attlee and Thatcher gov-

ernments beat demoralised opponents whose ideas had come to seem risible or contemptible or both".

Mr Blair continues: "Labour is not yet at that stage. The synthesis we achieved in 1945, or the Tories managed after 1979, does not come easily."

The Labour leader also maintains that the modernisation of Attlee's government was not matched by Harold Wilson's governments, but rather by Lady Thatcher.

He claims the challenge for a modern party is to recognise different realities while providing a programme and message which can move both uncommitted voters and party activists.

Mr Blair also reveals that he believes it is now more difficult to win the battle for ideas, partly because there is no longer a cohesive intellectual elite and partly due to the way the modern media cramps political debate through lurid headlines.

One consequence, he claims, is that real debate can no longer take place within parties, let alone across the old left-right political divide.

Mr Blair does not denigrate the party's achievements, saying the building blocks of a new centre-left identity are now in place. These include the idea of stakeholding, the need to fashion a new social order to combat insecurity, and the need to find a post-imperial role for Britain inside Europe.

But he reveals that he is relaxed about right-wing claims that they are constructing the more exciting ideas. He claims this is because they have departed from the mainstream. "This sets the headlines, but mainly because people find their ideas bizarre."



Jason Lee... a great career ahead of him, with Del Monte?

# Footballer misses the joke after being put on transfer list

John Duncan, Sports Correspondent

**J**ASON LEE, the Nottingham Forest footballer put on the transfer list after his confidence was shattered by a series of television sketches mocking his hair and his goalkeeping ability, was keeping his head down yesterday — pineapple and all.

Lee is at the centre of one of the strangest soccer stories of the year, after his manager Frank Clark reportedly claimed that the BBC's programme Fantasy Football League, presented by Frank Skinner and David Baddiel, had affected the player so much that he was having to sell him.

The sketch that seems to have started it all was broadcast on January 12. In it Baddiel, dressed as Lee — with a pineapple on his head, mimicking the player's dreadlocked hair gathered with a headband — is summoned to see Clark (Skinner) in his office because Fifa are thinking of making the goals bigger.

He tries to throw an empty water bottle in the bin, but misses. He tries to put a lump of sugar in his coffee but misses. Viewers then see a series of dreadful howlers from the Lee archive.

"But I made the goal for Stuart Pearce last week, boss," says Lee. Footage shows Lee miscue horribly from six yards and the ball falls for Pearce to score.

Since then the programme has regularly featured jokes at the player's expense.

According to Clark, opposition crowds and even children in playgrounds sing "He's got a pineapple on his head" (to the tune of "He's got the whole world in his hands") at Lee.

"It's a factor in that I feel it has affected his confidence," said Clark. "It can't be very pleasant to have kids shouting these sort of things at you and that obviously is a direct result of what has come out on the programme."

Frank Skinner, on holiday in Los Angeles, denied the claim last night. "I think Jason has a great career ahead

Figures of fun



**Gary Sprake**  
What Jason Lee has been to the 1995/6 season, Gary Sprake was to the late Sixties and early Seventies. His errors were legendary, and regular, including throwing the ball into his own net thinking the final whistle had gone. His reputation was bad enough to have been passed down the generations, but he maintained it was press persecution.



**Graham Taylor**  
Taylor suffered having his head transformed by the Sun into a turnip after defeat by the Swedes and was subsequently vegetally lampooned, with the theme accompanying his every match in charge of England. He felt the lash of Spitting Image with a sketch in which Hitler and Saddam Hussein are served in a bar but Taylor is kicked out as an unacceptable customer.



**Tony Adams**  
Adams was branded a donkey by Aston Villa fans for his alleged clumsiness and lack of ball skills and his appearances from then on brought a chorus of braying. The Daily Mirror published a picture of him as a donkey. Driving his car into a wall while drunk didn't help, but Arsenal fans turned it around, heaving with delight as he made crucial tackles.

of him. The rumour here in LA is that the Man From Del Monte is about to say yes to him. Anyway, we've taken the micky out of Andy Cole all season and it hasn't affected him, has it?"

The programme makers were equally defiant. "We feel Clark has done this player no favours by drawing the media's attention to the situation."

That view was echoed by sports psychologist John Syer. "The environment of a team game usually protects players from this sort of

# Bank points to bad debts trap

Sarah Fyle

**M**ORTGAGE lenders battling to offer homebuyers the lowest interest rates and biggest cashbacks are fuelling fears of a return to the bad debt problems suffered after the 1980s housing market collapse.

Building societies' and banks' balance sheets may look healthy now, Bank of England officials said yesterday. But if the lenders keep up the drive to hold down mortgage rates — already at a 30-year-low — they could be stirring up trouble for the future.

The Bank said that lenders were relying on the continuing stability of inflation, and therefore interest rates, to shore up their special deals. It warned that provision for bad debt was at historically low levels and banks were risking big losses similar to those of the late 1980s and early 1990s.

Interest rates then rose sharply to control inflation and unemployment shot up, forcing thousands into bad debt and repossession of their homes.

Lenders have assured the Bank that they have learned from past mistakes of taking too much risk and lending too much money. But the Old Lady is concerned that competition for market share could bounce back on the industry in two or three years' time.

One of the key reasons that the mortgage companies were now able to offer cashbacks and discounted rates was the relatively low return they are currently paying to savers, according to the Bank's annual report, published yesterday.

Many customers have left their deposits intact despite low interest rates in anticipation of windfall gains from conversions by building societies to banks and from acquisitions like the Lloyds Bank/Cheltenham & Gloucester deal.

But the Bank warned that this money is not locked up forever. Current rates to savers might offer little incentive to leave cash on deposit.

According to its report, the banking industry is generally healthy in terms of capital and also profitable by past standards. Margins on home mortgages have been quite

high recently, by international standards. But it urged caution over accounting for the schemes used to win business, like cashbacks, and warned banks to resist the erosion of covenants in commercial lending deals.

The report said that loosening the reins on bank lending to individuals and to businesses would "store up problems for the future".

The British Bankers Association said last night that it had no fears about lenders making proper provision for the special deals in their accounts. It dismissed the prospect of a mortgage market share causing overheating in the housing market and subsequent problems for borrowers.

Building societies said they would prefer not to have to cut mortgage rates back but had no option in the current climate.

The spokeswoman for the Building Societies Association, Sue Anderson, said: "It is no secret that some lenders would prefer not to be so competitive. Once it is like that, however, it's very difficult not to join in, because if you don't, then you lose market share. Borrowers are only interested in the up-front cost of the mortgage."

## Best deals

- Variable cashback mortgages:**
  - Barclays Bank: 7.24 per cent or 95 per cent cash back up to £6,000.
  - Cheshire Building Society: 6.99 per cent on 90 per cent mortgage, 5 per cent cash back up to £18,000.
  - Bradford & Bingley Building Society: 6.99 per cent on 90 per cent mortgage, fee £150, cash back 5 per cent up to £10,000.
- Fixed and discounted mortgages for first-time buyers:**
  - Skipton Building Society: 4.75 per cent fixed until 31.03.98, fee £250.
  - Bristol & West: discounted rate of 0.71 per cent for six months, no fee.
  - Discounted rate mortgages, all buyers:
    - Leeds & Holbeck: 0.99 per cent until Feb 1997
    - Yorkshire: 3.74 per cent for three years

# EU cheated off by tax scam

John Hooper in Rome

**I**TALIAN tax inspectors served up a scandal yesterday to stiffen the resolve of even the most timid Euro-sceptic — an alleged agriscam they claim has cost the European Union's taxpayers at least £31 million.

The fraud, aimed at evading rules for protecting EU producers, was said to have been carried out with the connivance of a semi-official Swiss farm board. Food importers in France and Germany are also accused of involvement.

Acting on the orders of a prosecutor in the northern Italian town of Varese, armed tax inspectors raided the offices of 33 companies which purchase cheese from Switzerland. The visit resulted in the entire board of directors of the sector's leading company being charged with fraud and embezzlement.

At the centre of the scandal is the Bern-based Schweizerische Kaseunion AG, (Swiss Cheese Union) a quasi-governmental organisation which is responsible for the marketing of all the hard cheese produced by Swiss farmers.

To protect the EU's agricultural output from cheaper imports from non-Union countries, the European Commission sets minimum import prices. Buyers in the EU who import goods costing less than this minimum price have to pay much stiffer import duty. According to the Schweizerische Kaseunion, the duty increased twentyfold over the threshold.

Italian tax inspectors alleged that, for eight years, the Schweizerische Kaseunion systematically evaded these levies. It sold vast quantities of cheese to Italian companies at inflated prices, which saved the importers duty, then refunded them the extra cost of the cheese.

The investigators were speaking after a raid on the

premises of the Varese-based firm, Praelpi Spa, Italy's biggest importer of Swiss cheese. Praelpi alone evaded £31 million of duty, the inspectors claimed.

They said a large part of the rebates went, not to the company, but into its directors' Swiss bank accounts. They have been charged with embezzling some £8.8 million.

A Schweizerische Kaseunion spokesman admitted last night that the facts as outlined by the Italians were substantially correct.

"But if we ask whether it was legal or not legal, the answer is not clear. It is a matter of interpreting what the law allows."

He said that while various grades of cheese had been exported at different prices, the real overall price was above the EU's minimum import price. Italian sources said the three cheeses involved were Gruyere, Emmentaler and the lesser-known Sbrinz.

Asked whether Schweizerische Kaseunion denied making payments to Italian company directors, the spokesman replied: "If you don't pay the money to the directors of a company, who else should you give it to?"

Some of the reimbursements were made by bank transfer, but others were by cheque, he said.

The first intimation of the scandal came earlier this month in a report from an EU anti-fraud body in Brussels. This indicated that the duty avoided came to 18 million ECUs (£10.4 million) in Italy, against 3.9 million ECUs in France and 1.2 million ECUs in Germany.

But the figures cited yesterday for Praelpi alone are much higher. Companies reportedly raided yesterday include such well-known names as Kraft, Galbani and the Standa supermarket chain, owned by the former Italian prime minister, Silvio Berlusconi.



## Less cash!

£1145 estimated price inc. VAT

We mean lower prices, unlike many of our competitors where even performance-enhancing cache costs you extra.

### Specifications

- 100, 133 or 166 MHz Pentium® processor
- 4,20MB or 1,2GB hard drive
- 8MB or 16MB RAM, 256KB cache
- Windows® for Workgroups 3.11 or Windows® 95
- AST-CommandCenter™ II™ anti-virus/security/management software
- 15" low-radiation SVGA digital monitor

With AST's Bravo LC, you won't have to pay extra for cache to get the best performance from your desktop because it's already included in the price. By coupling a fast 100, 133 or 166 MHz Pentium® processor with a standard 256KB of cache, AST assures the Bravo LC delivers outstanding speed. The Bravo LC offers you the choice of either Windows® for Workgroups 3.11



or Windows® 95 operating systems, and includes as standard built-in virus protection and security

### BRAVO SERIES

features. To top it all off, the Bravo LC comes with a low-radiation, top-of-the-range 15" SVGA digital monitor. In fact, for the price of the Bravo LC, you're virtually getting a high-end computer.

For details of your nearest stockist call today on 0990 611 611



**In every important aspect Israel is Britain's cultural antipodes. If the British are formal, civil, phlegmatic, pacific and furtive, Israelis are unstuffy, rude, argumentative and open. Britain is ashamed of its flag; Israelis tie theirs to their car aerials.**

Matthew Engel

G2 cover story

# 4 BRITAIN

## Mother and daughter are reunited after 56 years

**Sarah Boseley on 'miracle' for woman forced to abandon six-week-old baby**

**A**N ELDERLY woman, who was incarcerated for 35 years in a mental asylum where she was taken with post-natal depression, is to be reunited with the daughter she was forced to abandon as a six-week-old baby.

Katie Claxton, aged 79, spoke to her daughter Maureen, now 56 and living in the United States, for the first time over the phone last week. Their emotional exchange marked the end of 50 years of tragedy and loss.

While Katie, whose depression lasted only a couple of months, was locked in a ward with highly disturbed women, separated from her child but never ceasing to think about her, Maureen endured a miserable and violent childhood.

"I have been pining for her all these years," said Maureen. "I am very angry. If I had known where she was, I would have been happier. I could have maybe got her out of the hospital."

Her mother, now living in a sheltered flat in Manchester, said the reunion was a miracle. "I never thought I would see her again."

Katie, who at one time was receiving regular electro-convulsive therapy, learned in Springfield hospital, in Crumpsall, Greater Manches-

ter, to accept her lot. "I had milk fever with having the baby," she said. "They shouldn't have kept me in the hospital. There was nothing wrong with me. Some of them were a bit demented. I kept away from them."

She was admitted in 1940. Her husband, George, was away fighting. Maureen had been placed in an orphanage.

When George Claxton returned, he took his young daughter out and cared for her, but about a year later he died of cancer.

Maureen, then aged six, went to live with an aunt and uncle, who said her mother was dead. "They wouldn't let me have any contact with my mother's family," said Maureen. My aunt was very cruel to me. She used to beat me."

One day, when she was 12, a friend's mother said her grandmother lived nearby. Maureen visited her and told her she was her granddaughter. "She showed me the room where I was born. She told me my mother was in hospital, but never said which one."

Soon afterwards, Maureen ran away. "I couldn't take any more beatings." Her uncle took her to another relative. "Her husband attacked me, so I went to stay with my girlfriend's parents. I stayed until I was 18."



Katie Claxton, 79, with a photograph of her long lost daughter Maureen, to whom she spoke for the first time last week

She married — a GI bride — and moved to the US. She has six children and eight grandchildren, although her marriage broke up after 10 years.

"I have been pining for her all these years... I am very angry"

but has never stopped trying to find out about her mother. She traced her to Springfield, but was told by a doctor her mother did not recall having a child. She sent a letter, with a photograph, but Katie was not given it until she was discharged. Katie carried the picture with her everywhere, until she lost it

when she was mugged. The incarceration distressed Katie's mother and sisters, too, say Katie's niece, Joyce Hamill, aged 58, and her daughter Jane, aged 31.

"My gran and Katie's sisters used to visit Katie, but it was that traumatic and upsetting," said Jane, from Salford. "They tried to get her out, but nobody would help."

None of the family spoke about the woman in the asylum. "The first time ever I heard about Katie was on the wedding day of my auntie Frances, her sister," said Joyce. "The people next door sang, 'I'll take you home again, Kathleen,' and my grandma started crying. She said it was because auntie Katie was in hospital."

In 1978, Katie was released from Springfield, after she was befriended by a cleaner

who offered to give her a home and persuaded doctors to release her.

Katie's mother, Maureen's grandmother, had suffered a mental breakdown and was in Prestwich hospital, Greater Manchester. Katie began to visit her regularly. Then she went to see Joyce Hamill, her sister's child.

"When Katie first came to me she said, 'You're Nora's daughter,' and it took off from there. Every Saturday and at holidays and Christmas she

comes to us. She's lovely," said Joyce.

"She talked about her daughter all the time. She wanted to see her. In the end, I told her I'd try to find her, but I never thought I would. It makes me want to cry, just talking about it."

Jan Rhodes, a spokesman for the Manchester health commission, said: "These sorts of cases are not unusual."

The International Red Cross tracked Maureen to West Plains, Missouri. She did not know her mother had been released from hospital, and assumed the letter she received was to tell her Katie had died. Instead, it gave her a phone number, and she spoke to her mother for the first time on the evening of her 79th birthday and will soon fly back to see her.

### News in brief

## Doctors back right to assist suicides

MOST doctors are in favour of a change in the law to allow "physician-assisted" suicide, according to a survey published yesterday. The first UK research on the issue found that 54 per cent of the 700 GPs, hospital physicians, anaesthetists, psychiatrists and pharmacists who responded to the survey supported a change in the law to allow them to help patients to end their life in certain circumstances.

The survey, carried out by Sheila McLean, professor of law and ethics in medicine at Glasgow University, also found that 28 per cent of doctors would be willing to assist a patient in extreme mental or physical pain to commit suicide if it were legal. However, only 3 per cent of doctors admitted they had helped a patient to die.

Professor McLean said: "Anecdotal evidence suggests there are doctors who help patients to die. The aim of the research is to gather information which will allow us to draft a bill to legalise physician-assisted suicide."

## Bowbelle sinks

THE dredger Bowbelle, which sank the Thames cruiser Marchionness seven years ago with the loss of 51 lives, has itself sunk — two thousand miles away off the coast of Madeira.

The 260-foot sand dredger, working under a new Portuguese name Bon Rei, broke in two on March 28, drowning one of its crew. But the accident went almost unnoticed until yesterday, when the connection between a routine report from the Lloyd's agent in Madeira was connected with the Marchionness disaster.

Members of the Marchionness Action Group, which fought to have a full inquest into the Thames cruiser's loss, expressed little surprise yesterday that the 32-year-old dredger should have sunk.

"We always warned that the Bowbelle would come to an end like this", said Margaret Lockwood Croft, whose son Statman was among those who died during a late-night birthday party cut short by collision under a Thames bridge. "Not only did its visibility problems mean that it had a series of collisions, but also we said there were structural problems." — David Fairhall

## Fresh clues in hunt for rapist

DETECTIVES yesterday revealed new clues in their hunt for an armed sex attacker who preys on courting couples at a beauty spot. Police believe the man, who has struck four times in five years at Farley Mount, near Winchester, Hampshire, may be a member of the armed services. Detectives are checking with the services to see if the offences coincided with the end of tours of duty.

He last struck in April when a 16-year-old girl was tied up and abducted as she and her 18-year-old boyfriend sat in their car. The girl was driven seven miles and indecently assaulted before being dumped in a lonely country lane. Police revealed yesterday that in an earlier incident in November 1992, when a 20-year-old woman was abducted and raped, she was taken to a cottage or outbuilding within a 15-mile radius of the beauty spot.

## Big Issue aims to cut suicides

THE Samaritans are training Big Issue sellers in listening skills to help depressed and suicidal homeless people in London. From this week a number of sellers of the magazine for the homeless will be taught suicide awareness in an attempt to reduce the rate of suicides among people living on the streets. An estimated 23 per cent of the deaths among those living rough are suicide.

Robyn Euston, manager of the training unit at the Big Issue, said: "There's already quite a network of vendors who provide a listening ear to other homeless people and their customers, so this project seems a natural and logical extension of that."

## Bullet girl to fly home

A FIVE-YEAR-OLD African orphan who was flown to Britain to have a bullet removed from her skull should be fit to return home next week. Doctors say they expect Teneh Cola to fly back to Sierra Leone on Tuesday or Wednesday.

Teneh had a bullet removed from behind her right eye nine days ago by surgeons at the Norwich and Norfolk hospital and staff say they have been delighted with her recovery.

## Irish police admit accidentally destroying extradition warrant for wanted IRA suspect

David Sharrock  
Ireland Correspondent

IRISH police yesterday asked the Home Office to submit future extradition warrants to them on coloured paper after admitting that they had mistakenly shredded documents last month relating to a man wanted for questioning in connection with the IRA's bombing campaign in England.

The Irish parliament had to be suspended three times yesterday as the row over the failed extradition to Britain of Dubliner Anthony Duncan raged. Several opposition MPs were expelled from the chamber, one of whom refused to withdraw a claim that the prime minister, John Bruton, had misled the house over the case.

Opposition members said Mr Bruton told the Dail last month there was no fault on

the part of Irish authorities in their handling of the case. But Mr Bruton insisted: "The statement I made was accurate and true, based on information I had at the time." He said a Garda investigation into the affair had only been completed two days ago.

The extradition hearing against Mr Duncan — who is wanted for questioning about IRA bomb attacks in England before the 1994 ceasefire — collapsed last month after a

Dublin court heard that documents were "fundamentally flawed". Mr Duncan was freed but immediately rearrested and charged with IRA membership. A new extradition attempt cannot be heard until this charge has been dealt with, which could take more than a year.

The extradition failure soured Anglo-Irish relations as Dublin government sources initially tried to pin the blame for the mistake on

the British authorities. But the Irish justice minister, Nora Owen, admitted in a written parliamentary reply that the original warrant had been "destroyed accidentally" while copies of it were being made by the Garda.

In the hope of further extradition documents avoiding a similar fate, Irish police now want them to be sent on coloured paper to distinguish them from photocopies. A Garda source said: "It's very

hard to make out the difference between an original and a good photocopy. If the original is on coloured paper it won't be mistaken for a copy."

The history of extradition between the Irish Republic and Britain is littered with mistakes, confusion and bitter rows. The lowest point was reached in December 1988 over the non-extradition of Father Patrick Ryan, when Margaret Thatcher accused Dublin of a "lack of resolve".

## "You're not sure your health insurance will pay my bill, are you?"

Until now, buying a cheaper private healthplan has meant compromising on the amount of cover you get. But Primecare, a new policy from Prime Health, actually gives you comprehensive cover — at a budget price.

So, if you're buying a policy, ask yourself: does it cover out-patient treatment, like specialist consultations? Does it give you immediate access to private treatment? Does it guarantee full payment of surgeons' and anaesthetists' fees? Will it pay for alternative medicine?

Primecare gives you all this. In fact, we believe it to be the best deal currently on the market. Why not switch immediately? You can be covered the moment you contact our Customer Advisers on 0800 77 99 55.

### Prime Health

A member of the Standard Life Group

Call Prime Health on 0800 77 99 55, or fill in the coupon.

Title \_\_\_\_\_ First name \_\_\_\_\_  
PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS  
Surname \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone (inc. STD code) Day \_\_\_\_\_ Evening \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of birth of the eldest person requiring cover \_\_\_\_\_  
Cover required: Single  Married  Family  Single parent family   
If you already have private medical insurance please state renewal date \_\_\_\_\_  
Please post to (no stamp required) Prime Health Limited, FREEPOST, SK 5042 Stockport, Cheshire SK2 5YQ. M02 061 NG

## Renewing your home insurance in May or June?

### If you're 50 or over, save with Saga Home Insurance

You will know how expensive home insurance can be — particularly if your insurance company is also having to insure younger, less careful householders. Thankfully, if you're aged 50 or over you can benefit from Saga Home Insurance — a superior household insurance that's only available to mature, responsible people like you.

Saga Home Insurance can offer you genuine savings over other policies, while giving you cover that fully protects your home and possessions. So if your home insurance is due for renewal soon, or if you would simply like to find out how much you could save with Saga Home Insurance, call us today — free.

**The Saga Price Promise**

If you find another comparable policy at a lower price within 2 months of taking out Saga Home Insurance, we'll refund you the difference.

## SAGA

Services Ltd

Saga Services Ltd would like to send you information about services provided by other Saga companies and may pass details to these companies to enable them to do so.

Alternatively, send this coupon to us in an envelope — you do not need a stamp:  
Saga Services Limited, FREEPOST731, Middleburg Square, Folkestone, Kent CT20 1BR

Mr / Mrs / Miss Initial: \_\_\_\_\_ Surname: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone No: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_  
Policy Renewal Date: \_\_\_\_\_ No. of bedrooms: \_\_\_\_\_  
Type of Property:  
Detached House:  Semi-detached House:   
Terraced House:  Detached Bungalow:   
Semi-detached Bungalow:  Flat/Maisonette:   
Other:  Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_  
Approximately when was it built?  
Pre 1920  1920-1945  1946-1979  1980-Present   
H 3146

Please tick the type of cover for which you would like a quotation:  
Home Contents Cover   
Buildings Cover

Answer YES to the following and you could save up to 15% on your Contents premium.

Does your home have an annually maintained burglar alarm? Yes  No

Is a 5-lever mortice lock fitted to the front door? Yes  No

Are all other external doors fitted with key-operated locks or bolts? Yes  No

Are secure key-operated locks fitted to all accessible windows? Yes  No

Are you an active member of a Police Approved Neighbourhood Watch Scheme? Yes  No

For insurance on listed buildings, those of non-standard construction, flats and maisonettes, or if you are the landlord of the property to be insured, please telephone 0800 414 525 ext 3146 for your quote or tick the box for further details

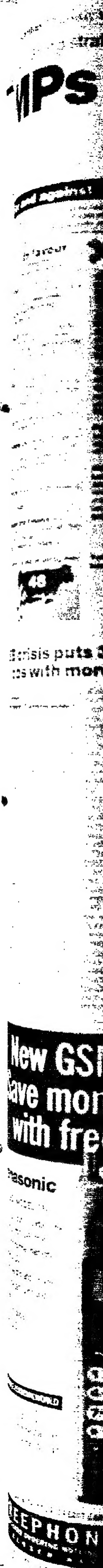
**Call us today!**

For your free no obligation quote and a free Saga pen, simply call us on the number below. We will be pleased to answer any questions you have on Saga Home Insurance.

## 0800 414 525 ext.3146

Lines open Monday to Friday 9am - 6pm.  
Saturdays 9am - 1pm

July 2015





# Joker in the Stalinist pack

Who is the man who claims to hold influence over the high-flying Communist leader Gennady Zyuganov? David Hearst in Moscow spoke to Viktor Anpilov

**V**IKTOR ANPILOV admires Stalin and the dictatorship of the proletariat. And he believes in the spiritually cleansing effect of cutting wood in a Siberian labour camp — where he has already mentally reserved places for some opponents.

At the last election his party, Working Russia, polled more than 3 million votes and came within one percentage point of official recognition in parliament.

That was more votes than the former prime minister and guru of the shock therapists, Yegor Gaidar.

A journalist, Mr Anpilov, aged 50, specialises in lancing his pompous opponents with humour, and addressing rallies with political wit.

While Gennady Zyuganov, leader of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation and a mathematician, starts each election rally with statistics describing the crisis of Russia's people and its economy, his Stalinist electoral ally raises spirits with his rhyming slogans.

Mr Anpilov describes himself and his party as the single most important influence on Mr Zyuganov. Four weeks before the presidential election, Mr Anpilov, a copy-book Marxist Leninist, is quite clear about the limits of his support for Mr Zyuganov.

At an open campaign meeting, he urged Mr Zyuganov to be bolder and to promise to nationalise Russia's banks. "We're not about to shoot anybody. Let the current bankers work for the Central Bank. But whoever doesn't like it — there's enough room at the latrine for everyone," he said.

In response, Mr Zyuganov called on his supporters to be "more precise in their statements and not let slip any frightening words". He reminded them that his platform safeguards private property rights.



Political satire... The witty Viktor Anpilov, left, makes his point

Should Mr Zyuganov be elected president, Mr Anpilov says he would campaign to destroy the office.

"The institution of the presidency inevitably brings Russia back to a monarchy, to its medieval rudiments. We don't want to live in medieval times, therefore we are going

**'We will struggle openly to liquidate the presidency. We have told Zyuganov'**

to struggle openly for the liquidation of the presidency. We have told this directly to Zyuganov."

Mr Anpilov claims he is not interested in a ministerial post in a Zyuganov government.

He describes his main difference with Mr Zyuganov thus: "It is mainly about the problem of power. We have come to understand the dictatorship of the proletariat as a

higher form of democracy, as a triumph of the absolute majority over the interests of the minority.

"Comrade Zyuganov has been drawn to less concrete notions like 'people's power'. But we know what the point of departure of a dictatorship of the proletariat is. It's a

state where even the smallest collective, of workers or scientists, elects its own soviet, capable of controlling the expenses and income of the collective and even the wages of its administrators."

Well, he says, he will reopen the labour camps. As for its first occupants: "I believe the first trial must be Mikhail Gorbachev's. I am

even in favour of the state paying the best lawyers, but the proceedings must be shown live on television. If the court proves Gorbachev is guilty, and you know I am against the death penalty, I believe he would cleanse himself of his shame by honest work, and cutting wood is honest."

Mr Anpilov has described the former president as a traitor — to his face.

Next on the list would be the tank commanders who opened fire on the White House, their own parliament, in October 1993, then the people who ordered Mr Anpilov's arrest in May 1993.

But, returning to Comrade Zyuganov, are there not fundamental ideological disagreements between the two men? Such as Mr Anpilov's support for the dictatorship of the proletariat and Mr Zyuganov's professed support for a parliamentary democracy? Mr Anpilov replies: "Zyuganov is cautious. He is play-

ing by the bourgeois rules and I say let him play, because the reality is quite different. Zyuganov has to take this into account, but our aims are much more profound. It is to establish soviet power, to restore people's property, to re-establish justice."

"Our influence on him [Mr Zyuganov] becomes clear when you work with the masses. Most of them don't want civil war, and many see us as the safety catch on his gun. They see there is an alternative to him in our party, and to some extent this alternative has one concrete personality."

Comrade Anpilov is referring to himself.

## Clinton wants Bosnian poll before he faces voters

# US envoy intent on toppling Karadzic

Ian Traynor in Bosnia

**T**HE United States last night stepped up the pressure to topple Radovan Karadzic, the hardline Bosnian Serb leader and indicted war criminal, in an attempt to keep its Balkan peace process on schedule.

The US state department said Mr Karadzic's removal was "to make sure that all of them understand, from our point of view, the importance of civilian implementation of the [US-brokered] Dayton peace accords."

Mr Kornblum's mission followed the failure last week-end of Carl Bildt, the European official in charge of overseeing civilian aspects of the Dayton accords, to secure Mr Karadzic's removal.

Central to the Dayton deal is the provision for free elec-

tions in Bosnia in September, although all the evidence suggests that the battered country is far from ready to stage a free and fair ballot.

German sources active in Bosnia said the Clinton administration's paramount aim was to make sure the elections took place on time to prevent any Basco that could impinge on the US presidential poll in November.

The Americans want the elections held on September 14, although European officials working in Bosnia are less than sanguine at that prospect.

"The last thing Clinton wants is a poll postponement," said a German source. "The US is putting huge pressure on the Europeans and they will probably have to say okay or start another row with the Americans. But the problems are immense. There is no funding, the media freedom is miserable."

The most likely outcome of an autumn poll in Bosnia will be to replicate the result of the first post-communist elections held in 1990 which

helped set the country on course for war: a triumph for three nationalist parties representing the Serbs, Muslims, and Croats.

Mr Karadzic is the biggest — but not the only obstacle — to a fair election as the Dayton deal bars him from holding elected office. He is fiercely resisting the international pressure to go and humiliated Mr Bildt at the week-end who boasted he had won assurances that the hardline nationalist was throwing in the towel.

By contrast, Mr Karadzic engineered the sacking of a rival moderate as the prime minister of his Bosnian Serb Republic, replaced him with a hardline crocy, and had another nationalist ally named to liaise with the international powers.

The US appears to be moving in to flex muscles and bang heads where the Europeans failed.

Mr Kornblum's ace card in attempting to get Mr Milosevic to help is diplomatic recognition. Unlike the European Union countries which have afforded Mr Milosevic's rump Yugoslavia recognition in the past couple of months, the Americans are holding back.

## Foul play suspected in French reporter's death

Alex Dunal Smith in Paris

**M**YSTERY surrounds the death of one of France's leading investigative journalists, who was found hanging in his holiday home in Menorca.

Spanish police said they believed Xavier Gautier, aged 35, whose body was discovered on Sunday, had killed himself.

But other police sources in Spain indicated that the journalist, who had investigated the arms trade in former Yugoslavia for the French daily newspaper Le Figaro, may have been murdered.

The police chief for Ciudadela, Menorca, said the words *trattore* and *diavolo* (Italian for "traitor" and "devil") had been scrawled on the outside of the house.

But Fernando Rodriguez said: "We are inclined to believe it was suicide. The house was in order and there were no signs of a struggle. No suicide note was found."

Gautier's family yesterday called for a murder inquiry. Charles Lambroschini, the foreign editor of Le Figaro, said Gautier had worked for nearly six years, said: "The family refuses to believe it was suicide. I have trouble believing he killed himself. At the same time it seems surprising that a Yugoslav faction might go to so much trouble to kill him in Spain."

Mr Lambroschini said Gautier, who had begun a year's sabbatical in March, had previously investigated the work of arms traders who had breached the United Nations embargo on arming Croat and Bosnian forces.

While Mr Lambroschini said Gautier's reporting was exemplary in its bravery and accuracy, he said many other Western journalists had done similar work in the Balkans.

Refusing to comment on Gautier's state of mind, he said the reporter, who was unmarried, had been very upset at the death of his brother six months ago.

A Paris-based "freeman" — a reporter who travels to trouble spots across the world — Gautier had covered Kurdish resistance to Saddam Hussein in 1991 before specialising in the Balkans.

## Millions cross ex-Soviet borders

Owen Bennett Jones in Geneva

**M**ORE than nine million former Soviet citizens, one in 30 of the population, have been on the move since the collapse of the communist system, according to a United Nations study.

Many of them have fled fighting. Ethnic disputes in Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan have led to 1.5 million people leaving their homes.

Similar population movements have been caused by fighting in Moldova, Tajikistan and Chechnia. The Russian Federation has absorbed the biggest inflow of people as ethnic Russians seek the safety of their motherland.

People have also been forced to move for fear of nationalist discrimination and because of environmental crises.

Humanitarian agencies believe such movements will be destabilising. While some

new countries, especially those in Central Asia, are suffering from a "brain drain" others, like the Russian Federation, are having to cope with millions of new arrivals.

Sergio Vieira de Mello, the UN's assistant high commissioner for refugees, says: "With so many on the move there is a risk of economic development being undermined and regional security being threatened."

The UNHCR believes an improvement in human rights

could contribute to a reduction in the mass flow.

In the Soviet era, Russians moved to other republics where they were put in positions of authority. Many are now back home, and those who have chosen to stay put face problems.

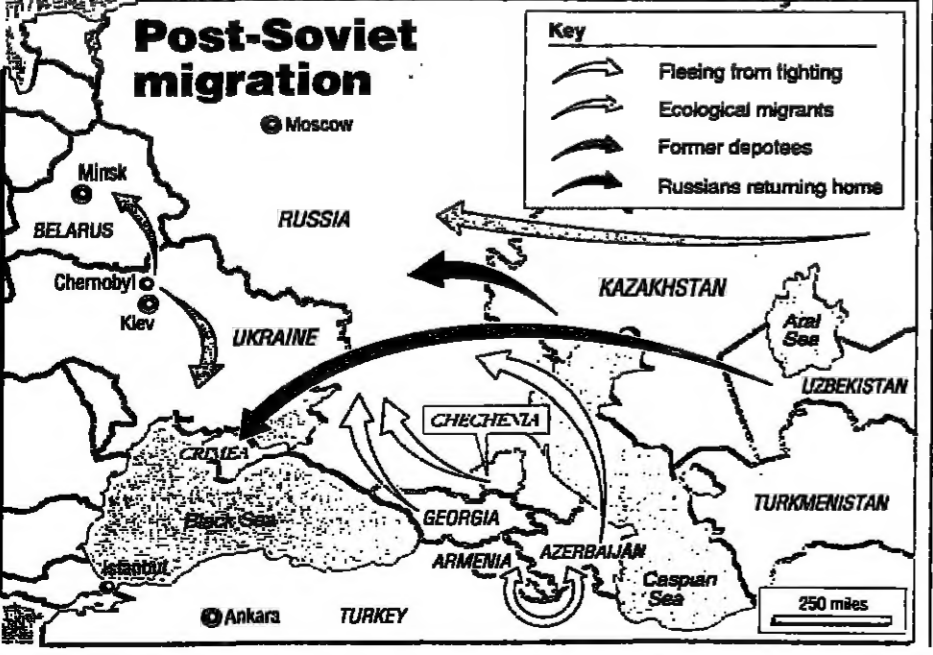
Russian has the accepted language of the Soviet Union and few ethnic Russians bothered to learn the local language. But the new governments have all declared official their own languages.

Some migrants are escaping from the Soviet Union's nuclear programmes. Nuclear contamination in Chernobyl and the Kazakh test site of Semipalatinsk has produced at least 700,000 ecological migrants.

The former Soviet states are also trying to unravel Stalin's policy of shifting populations. His regime moved 3 million people from their homes to other Soviet regions.

Entire national groups such as the Volga Germans, the Chechens and the Crimean Tatars were moved in cattle trucks to Siberia or Central Asia. Their descendants have been trying to get back home.

When the Soviet system collapsed, politicians feared a wave of immigration from East to West. In fact most of the population movements have been contained within the borders of the former Soviet Union.



**If there is a problem with cultural theory it is not so much moronism as over-zealousness. In arguing that everything — from Vera Duckworth's wallpaper to Cantona's smile — means something, they have overburdened culture with significances it cannot support.**

Charlotte Raven

**Buy your garden furniture from Homebase and you'll be sitting pretty.**

**Gazebo**  
Green with Green Stripe  
2m x 2m  
£99.99  
Save £10

**Tulip Aluminium Chair**  
Green  
£39.99  
Save £5

**Aluminium Table**  
Green  
80cm diameter  
£79.99  
Save £8

**Rocker Chair**  
Green Stripe  
£24.99  
Save £5

**Homebase Rosetti Parasol**  
180cm diameter  
£34.99 Save £3.50

**Homebase Rosetti High Back Cushion**  
£17.99 Save £2

**Weber One Touch Kettle Barbecue**  
£109.99  
Save £10

**Homebase Verona Barbecue**  
£32.99  
Save £10

**Grosfillex Odessa White Table**  
140cm  
£64.99 Save £20

**Grosfillex Miami White High Back Chair**  
£13.99  
Save £4.20

**SAINSBURY'S HOMIEBASE**  
HOUSE AND GARDEN CENTRES  
Good ideas cost less at Homebase.

Monday 27th May 9am - 6pm • Monday-Thursday 8am - 8pm • Friday 8am - 9pm • Saturday 8am - 8pm • Sunday 10am - 4pm  
All sizes are approximate and not to scale. M's. Homebase subject to availability. Opening times may vary. Please call 0181-200 0200 for details of your nearest store.  
\*Except stores in Scotland which open 9am - 8pm

April 2015 D

# Soldiers are using threats to stop a boycott of today's poll, writes Suzanne Goldenberg in Sapore Kashmiris coerced to vote

INDIAN soldiers have been summoning local leaders to demand that they turn out for parliamentary elections today — or face the army's wrath tomorrow.

"They told us: 'If you don't have the blue mark on your finger that you have voted, then the next day we will cut it off,'" the leader of a residents' association in the apple market town of Sapore said.

Other town leaders, huddled in woollen cloaks against the biting spring cold, say they have had similar threats. Today's elections, for the parliamentary seats of Baramullah and Anantnag, will be the first polls in the valley since the separatist uprising against Indian rule began in 1989. A second round in the capital Srinagar and another seat will follow on May 30.

For New Delhi, the elections are a matter of enormous prestige: evidence of its success in containing the gunmen and in persuading Kashmiris to return to the Indian fold. Today's vote is seen as a prelude to state assembly elections later this summer, and the Indian authorities want to make sure it takes place with a minimum of violence.

New Delhi has intensified its operations against separatist guerrillas, inflicting heavy casualties. Tens of thousands of paramilitary forces have poured into the valley, along with hundreds of civil servants, press-gauged into duty as presiding officers.

An 80-member medical team from New Delhi has been under heavy guard in a Srinagar hotel. Candidates make their rounds in bullet-proof cars, escorted by three armoured vehicles and a truckload of security forces.

But attendance is dismal at rallies. Among Kashmiris, who see the poll as a New Delhi tactic to ignore demands for talks on the valley's future, resentment runs deep.

The traditional Kashmiri party, the National Conference, has boycotted the polls, as have separatist organisations.



Protest vote... Kashmiri women shout anti-Indian slogans at a pre-election demonstration in Srinagar yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH: KAMAL KISHORE

"Elections are not held and cannot be held in a region where the government exists in bunkers and the guns roar," said Abdul Ghani, a leader of the pro-Pakistan Muslim Conference.

The separatist boycott leaves the field clear for political unknowns and candidates belonging to government-backed armed groups. "The candidates are not real militants," claimed one So-

pore man, shaking his fist in anger. "They are thieves, murderers and exploiters." Civil servants have been on strike for days, shops have been shuttered since Monday, and newspapers have ceased publication.

In Sapore, local leaders say officers from the local Ninth Gurkha Rifles have harangued them daily for the past week. "They have told us to make

sure there was a queue outside the polling stations. They said: 'It doesn't matter if you vote or not, we will do the rest,'" one local leader said.

But there is also fear of the separatists. Even those few Kashmiris who would like to vote will do so at their peril. "We cannot cross anybody to give our vote. At our front, there are guns; at our backs, there are guns," one government employee said.

"Nobody will give their vote voluntarily, but if they force us, what can we do?" But Javaid Shah, the Srinagar candidate for the Awami League and former deputy of the chief pro-government group, denies intimidating voters. "We don't have our guns anymore," he said from his villa in Shivpura. "How can we force people to vote? The people will vote because they love us."

In the second powerful blast in India in two days, a bomb on a bus killed at least 14 people and wounded 30 in the north-west state of Rajasthan yesterday, the chief minister's office said. Police said no-one had claimed responsibility.

On Tuesday, nearly 30 people were killed in a New Delhi shopping district by a bomb variously claimed by Islamists and Sikh militants.

# Junk fiend and deathbed wag has last laugh

Christopher Reed in Los Angeles

THE late playwright and author William Saroyan had a great deathbed line: "Everybody has got to die," he wrote "but I always believed an exception would be made in my case. Now what?"

What indeed. Fifteen years after his death, the Armenian-American eccentric and controversialist is still stirring up the literary and academic world with a dispute about his legacy. Saroyan, who died aged 72, spent his last months rewriting his will and making arrangements for his "collection".

An unknown number of unpublished short stories, plays, novels, essays and letters made up a literary treasure trove from the author of *The Time of Your Life*, an acclaimed play he wrote in six days. He rejected the Pulitzer prize for it, saying the work was "too ardently amused by the row. Yet there is sadness too. He asked that no buildings be named after him; that the two houses where he spent his last days in Fresno and his home in Paris be kept for visiting writers; and that half his ashes be scattered in his ancestral village in Armenia.

Saroyan, the author of *The Human Comedy*, might be sardonically amused by the row. Yet there is sadness too. He asked that no buildings be named after him; that the two houses where he spent his last days in Fresno and his home in Paris be kept for visiting writers; and that half his ashes be scattered in his ancestral village in Armenia.

The Fresno theatre is now called the Saroyan. The houses have been sold, and his ashes were deposited in a grandiose memorial in Yerevan, Armenia's capital. As he said, now what?

grin, their rivals at Stanford University have acquired the Foundation — old bottle-tops and all.

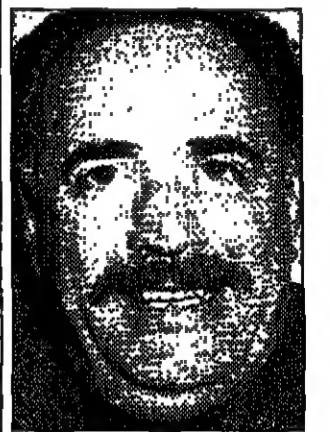
Anthony Bliss, manuscript curator at the Bancroft library, fumed: "Nobody at the Foundation consulted us. You read the self-congratulatory announcement from Stanford, and it's hard not to gag."

Michael Keller, head librarian at Stanford, was sympathetic. "Our colleagues at Bancroft have been doing wonderful things for decades," he signed. "But... Saroyan will have a very strong presence here."

Two men with a lorry recently carted off the boxes from Fresno. It took them all day, but the museum was not sorry to part with the effects of Fresno's most famous son. The dominant agribusines elements of the now-booming city never embraced the eccentric Armenian.

Saroyan, the author of *The Human Comedy*, might be sardonically amused by the row. Yet there is sadness too. He asked that no buildings be named after him; that the two houses where he spent his last days in Fresno and his home in Paris be kept for visiting writers; and that half his ashes be scattered in his ancestral village in Armenia.

The Fresno theatre is now called the Saroyan. The houses have been sold, and his ashes were deposited in a grandiose memorial in Yerevan, Armenia's capital. As he said, now what?



Mixed legacy: Late American playwright William Saroyan

# Britain urges Burma to stop crackdown on opposition

BRITAIN yesterday condemned the arrests in Burma of 30 supporters of Aung San Suu Kyi, the opposition democracy leader, and urged the ruling State Law and Order Council to release them immediately.

A Foreign Office statement said Britain was "gravely concerned about the deteriorating political situation and rising tensions throughout the country".

Most of those detained by Burma's military rulers were elected members of the National League for Democracy (NLD), which plans to hold its first congress this weekend since a sweeping election victory in 1990.

A source close to Nobel peace prize-winner Ms Suu Kyi said the number of those arrested could be higher as news of the detentions across the country were slowly trickling in.

The army has run Burma with an iron grip since the 1960s, crushing an uprising in 1988 against or killing democracy activists. But it has been more circumspect

since releasing Ms Suu Kyi from house arrest last July. The state-run media did not report the crackdown and government officials declined to comment. "We're not supposed to say anything on such a story. Why don't you approach the NLD people?"

Major Hla Tun, the senior information ministry official, said.

Ms Suu Kyi and other NLD members spent yesterday preparing for the three-day congress of top party members that starts at her house in the capital Rangoon on Sunday.

An NLD source said the crackdown, the worst since Ms Suu Kyi's release, was expected. At least 44 of those taken were arrested while travelling or preparing to travel to Rangoon for the meeting, the source said.

The rest, including Ms Suu Kyi's secretary, Win Htein, were arrested late on Tuesday and yesterday in Rangoon.

Diplomats in Rangoon said the stage was set for a fresh confrontation between Ms Suu Kyi and the government. — Reuter.

# News in brief

## Forty Russian troops killed

Forty Russian soldiers were reported killed in a rebel raid in Chechnya yesterday, almost twice the number first said to have died in the attack. Interfax news agency said.

Interfax said earlier that 22 Russian soldiers had been killed and 48 wounded when separatist rebels broke through their lines near the village of Bamut in southwest Chechnya. Reuter.

## Language barrier

The Irish are the least linguistically gifted national group in the European Union, according to a directory which analysed 1,700 EU officials. Luxembourgers fared best, with 84 per cent able to be understood in two or more languages apart from their own, followed by the Dutch and Belgians. — Reuter.

## Court video-linked

A Tasmanian man accused of one count of murder in the Port Arthur shooting massacre of 35 people appeared in a courtroom via a video link

from prison yesterday because of security fears. Martin Bryant, aged 29, appeared in Hobart magistrates' court charged with the murder of Kate Scott. — Reuter.

## Japan spy agency

Japan's parliament yesterday approved the establishment of the country's largest intelligence agency, designed to gather and study military developments in East Asia and elsewhere. — Reuter.

## Marshall aid plea

South Africa needs the same sort of Marshall plan assistance that helped rebuild western Germany after the second world war, President Nelson Mandela said in Bonn yesterday. — AP.

## Defence legend

A former soccer star, Gianni Rivera, aged 62, has found a new job in defence — as a deputy minister in Italy's government. — Reuter.

## Safety spaces

Women-only parking places will become standard at all rest stops along the national Autobahn, the German government decided. — AP.

# With 10% off all barbecues and garden furniture, you can afford to eat out this weekend.

This weekend at Do It All, you can get 10% off all Garden Furniture and Cushions, Barbecues, Charcoal and Barbecues Accessories. Offer ends Monday 27th May. Products subject to availability.

- Decorating Advisor**  
Help and advice available in-store
- Gardening Advisor**  
Help and advice available in-store
- DIA Helpline**  
Free help and advice 7 days a week 0800 435 436
- Project Guides**  
Over 60 free guides to lead you through most DIY tasks
- Bonus Card**  
Free £5 bonus voucher for every £100 spent
- Delivery**  
Free Delivery when you spend over £100



furniture base ng pretty

MEBASK

**When rights collide**

Jaymee's to fight, the NHS's to resist

FULSOME and eloquent tributes were rightly paid yesterday to the courage and spirit of Jaymee Bowen, the schoolgirl refused further NHS treatment for leukaemia, who lived for another year partly because of experimental palliative treatment bought privately thanks to an anonymous donor. She had an indomitable spirit, which all those who watched her on BBC Panorama quickly observed. In her words: "I would rather go through life struggling to live than do nothing and die. I say never give up." She was true to her word. Given only eight weeks to live, she survived for more than a year. But tributes, rather than brickbats, also need to be paid to the Cambridge and Huntingdon Health Commission, the authority which took the decision to stop further treatment.

Asked what she thought about the authority, Jaymee said she would like to meet the chief executive, Stephen Thornton, and "whack him one". Perfectly understandable. There should be no criticism of Jaymee, or her father, fighting for every bit of available treatment no matter how remote the chance of success. But health authorities have to be more impartial. The £75,000 which a second bone-marrow operation for Jaymee would have cost would also have been £75,000 less for other patients. The decision which they took was based on medical advice, which found the chances of Jaymee recovering from a second bone-transplant were virtually nil — a clinical decision which was upheld by two of the nation's top hospitals, the Royal Marsden and the Hammersmith, to which her father turned. It was only a private doctor, with no background in children's cancer, who thought it might work and then he changed his mind.

Her extra year needs to be celebrated, but the Cambridge authority needs protecting from castigation too. Yesterday

one of its critics, Professor John Goldman, suggested Jaymee should have been treated differently because of her lust for life. Implicitly this already happens in the NHS, but to turn it into a concrete principle would be to make the already tough and troublesome task of rationing NHS resources into a nightmare. It is bad enough trying to measure clinical need, likely effectiveness, and cost in the task of Solomon which health authorities are required to undergo, but Prof Goldman would only make the distribution of resources an even more Jesuitical operation. Imagine trying to measure people's spirit as well as their physical condition.

Rationing is as old as the NHS. It has been carried out implicitly (queues, waiting lists, waiting times) and explicitly, though always until recently in a covert manner: elderly people denied access to intensive care, alcoholics denied liver transplants. Now, under the restructured NHS, these decisions have become much more overt. This should be welcomed, not least because it could generate more resources for the underfunded service. What is wrong is the lack of a national framework. Ministers have pushed rationing down to local health authorities — so that they take the blame for unpopular decisions — but then intervene when local services begin to diverge to insist there must be national minimum standards. There must, but the only people able to set them are the very same ministers who are refusing to do so. It is no use the Health Secretary interfering in an ad hoc manner. Recently, for example, he insisted health authorities should not ban the use of a new controversial drug for multiple sclerosis which costs £10,000 per patient. But one-off interventions don't work. What is needed is a coherent and comprehensive framework. Ministers must come out of their bunkers.



**Letters to the Editor**

**Europe's meaty debate**

Our readers put road rage in the psychiatrist's driving seat

**Y**OUR leader on the beef crisis (By Jingro for July, May 22) came as a welcome antidote to the anti-Europe hysteria being whipped up by the Government. BSE has not been eradicated from the British beef herd, and government controls have thus far not prevented some infected material from entering the food chain. Therefore how can the Government continue to assert the safety of British beef?

The limited call that Douglas Hogg has offered Europe has nothing to do with eradicating BSE from the herds, and our European partners are quite right to be sceptical. The Government has taken an unacceptable gamble with our lives. Until BSE has been completely removed from the food chain, or until it is proved that BSE does not cause spongiform encephalopathy in humans, it is reasonable to expect foreign governments to protect their people. (Dr) D E Hardman, School of Social Sciences, City University, Northampton Square, London EC1V 0BB.

great extent of its population's interest in health issues. This is the genuine reason behind their refusal to lift the ban on British beef. It embarrasses me to see John Major giving up to the pressures of conspiracy theories. Marek Pieczynski, 26 Silverdale Road, Eastbourne BN23 7AZ.

**T**HE litany of despair recited by Sir Teddy Taylor over Europe (Roller-coaster out of Euro-nightmare, May 22) is hardly surprising in view of the anti-European stance adopted by our jingoistic press over all things European. One would imagine that BSE was the result of some interference from the EU instead of the direct result of "unfettering" British agribusiness by this hands-off government. The major crisis in Britain is a half-baked war. It is up to us to put things right.

John Major's petulant gesture over the failure to lift the ban on derivatives proves how completely he is at the mercy of his Euro-sceptics. When the US, Canada and Australia banned our beef, we did not make threats of non-cooperation in Nato or anywhere else. Harvey Quilliam, 6 Poulleva House, West Oakhill Park, Liverpool L13 4BW.

**A**FTER the latest failed attempt to get the EU ban on beef lifted, Malcolm Rifkind said that the decision was purely political, in spite of all scientific evidence that British beef is safe to eat. After 10 years of research, knowledge on BSE must have made gigantic advances in two months, because Stephen Dorrell's announcement to the Commons about the possible link with CJD had to be based on the best scientific evidence available. Otherwise, he made a colossal mistake. John Turner, 38 Cannonbury Road, London N1 2EG.

**M**AJOR's posturing is as morally justified as Britain's position in the opium wars. It is typical of our government's understanding of industry and commerce that it is content to encourage the supply of cheap and defective products, then wants to force the world to buy them. Brian Hall, Wiston, Coppice Way, Haywards Heath, West Sussex RH16 4NN.

**F**IRST France has a strike wave, now Germany. Clearly there is a lot to be said for not eating British beef. Joseph Lane, 366 Kemington Lane, London SE11.

**O**NE of the major reasons for road rage (How to curb rage, Leader, May 21) is surely that when a driver makes a mistake, it is virtually impossible to say "sorry". If, for example, I accidentally bump into someone in a pub and spoil their drink I can, through verbalisation and body language, satisfy them that it was my mistake and show I am suitably repentant. The result, in most cases, would be acceptance of the apology with perhaps reparation in the form of a replacement drink.

The design of the modern car means that good eye contact is difficult and the only way in which drivers can communicate is through flashing lights or honking horns, both of which are liable to exacerbate the situation. In the 1970s, I heard of a consensual hand-signal of three fingers outstretched horizontally to indicate excuse-not. Perhaps some agreed sign for "sorry, my fault" could be adopted nationally. Colin Burke, 38 Heaton Road, Manchester M20 4PU.

**S**O-CALLED road rage does indeed need to be put into perspective, but not quite as your editorial suggests. The vast majority of those who are killed or injured on the roads are killed or injured by the normal, criminal negligence of motorists. On average, about 10 people die on our roads every day. Unlike the killer of Mr Cameron, these motorists can expect trivial pseudo-penalties and very little attention by the media. The experience of drink-

driving tells us that a decline in anti-social driving behaviour occurs because of the increased likelihood of losing a driving licence and not, as you suggest, because of advertising campaigns. Increasing the level of law enforcement, with loss of licence for the vast majority of cases of bad driving, is the appropriate deterrent. Tony Roberts, PO Box 2678, London NW10 3PW.

**I**SEE that last year 1.8 million drivers were forced to swerve or pull off the road, and 400,000 had their cars deliberately driven into (Animal aggression drives motorists to violence, May 21). How can anyone possibly know this? No one has ever asked me if I've been a victim of such behaviour — did I miss the census? Or is this another example of guesswork being added as fact to flesh out a thin story? Philip Keimann, 17 Dalnair Street, Glasgow G3 8SD.

**R**OAD rage is not confined to those driving a car. Pedestrians can experience the same unbridled anger. It is linked to our perception of vehicles as monsters. The reaction is a response triggered by our collective unconscious, established in pre-history, to protect ourselves and our families from wild beasts. But now the beast of our collective unconscious is the motor vehicle. Alistair C Blunt, 71 Medfield Street, Roehampton, London SW15 4JY.

**Hogg's ham tactics over beef**

Britain has been playing politics over BSE more than anyone

**T**HEODORE ROOSEVELT famously advised politicians to speak softly and carry a big stick. John Major seems increasingly to have opted for the exact opposite, speaking loudly but carrying a stick so modest that no one is fooled by the threat of it. For if ever a political problem exemplified the need to plan for a conflict it has been the beef crisis. Mr Major wants to solve the problems of Britain's beef producers. But the only solid and secure way of doing that is by taking BSE seriously as a public health problem, working in concert with all those who are likely to have an interest, agreeing a line and then sticking to it. Britain has not done that — or rather it has done a limited number of things too grudgingly, too late and too inconsistently. To speak loudly is therefore to show the fundamental weakness of the British position not its strength.

It is always necessary to remember that the BSE outbreak in Britain has been far larger than anywhere else in the world, has gone on much longer and has been tackled with much less ruthlessness than the much smaller outbreaks elsewhere. All this was true before the government itself acknowledged that BSE in cattle could be connected with CJD in humans. That was the immediate reason why the European Union imposed a blanket ban. That decision was not an irrational spasm by crazed and illogical foreigners who are incapable of understanding scientific advice. It was an entirely logical position taken on the basis of

the scientific evidence as advanced by Britain itself. If anyone has acted and voted politically in this it has been the British, not those who took the scientific and veterinary advice and wanted to ensure that the disease was localised.

But the other problem with British policy over the past two months is that it has been so inconsistent and illogical. The last two months have been miserable for British beef farmers, especially for those whose attention to proper precautions has meant that they have never had a suggestion of BSE in their herds. Some nations are more hypocritical than others. But vets and ministers would be acting irresponsibly if they took risks. They have to take BSE ultra-seriously. Britain, by adopting inconsistent approaches to the problem and appearing to conjure solutions out of the air, undermines that inescapable seriousness. Douglas Hogg has done real harm to the cause of beef farmers by this approach to policy-making. To have allowed this technical problem to get caught up in the Conservative Party's dance of death with Europe was to guarantee that a problem-solving approach would be sacrificed for rhetorical posturing. That does no favours to producers or consumers. It is not surprising that the voters blame the government rather than the Europeans or the farmers for the crisis. The beef crisis remains soluble, but only by long-term measures and a recognition that the BSE question is a real one, not treating it as imaginary.

**Pineapples and banana skins**

But turnstile prices give football fans the right to laugh

**F**OOTBALL fans are renowned for their undying loyalty to their teams. But fans often also feel that the clubs take that loyalty for granted. One of the unpleasant ways that fans get their own back on football has been violence. But there has always been a more acceptable tactic — terrace humour. The success of Nick Hornby's Fever Pitch and of BBC TV's Fantasy Football programme is partly due to their skill in tapping into this mordant side of fan and fanzine culture. By making fun of players, the fans are also making fun of themselves and their own obsessions.

Few clubs are without a player — normally either a hopeless striker or a clumsy defender — at whom the fans love to laugh. In extreme cases, some clubs can even field eleven such players. Jason Lee's tragedy is that because of television he has become the first player that everybody laughs at, irrespective of club loyalty. David Baddiel

and Frank Skinner have transformed an obscure Notts Forest striker into a figure of national ridicule on account of his pineapple shaped hair-cut and a succession of spectacularly missed chances. Yesterday Lee buckled. He was put on the transfer list, allegedly because his confidence has been wrecked by TV's laddish duo.

It is hard not to feel sympathy for Lee. It is not nice to see anyone mocked because of their appearance, least of all if there is a racial dimension to the mockery. There is no joy either in witnessing the besieging media claim yet another celeb victim. But at the end of the day football is about putting the ball in the back of the net, Brian. Or in Lee's case, about not doing so. As a fan, you sometimes don't know whether to laugh or cry when your overpaid striker shoots wide yet again from two yards out. But at the prices that the fans now pay, they are entitled to a laugh.

**Grown-up stuff**

**S**O like, I read the Guardian on Thursday and it's like, the film Kids doesn't have much of a plot, right (Derek Malcolm's review, May 16)? It's a dumb fantasy. About skinny naked guys and girls in tiny T-shirts, kinda paedophile chic, and like, yeah man, "Where are the adults?"

It's something Derek Malcolm gets close to asking. Well, they're in the audience, reassuring each other. Malcolm asks if this is "the truth", and should know better. I spent a year in America and frequently saw clubs frequented by people who were 14-ish of their face — and this was the middle of the week. They did know the hours, and at 4 o'clock, when we left, they would carry their skateboards off down Broadway.



One of my over-riding impressions of New York was that America had left these kids to it — New York was their city, more than anyone else's.

This film should be subtitled Adults, as the fantasies, blindness and lack of morality in reactions to it are the (predictable) shocking thing here. This film is not the dumb fantasy of a dirty old man. It is about AIDS, and an environment where AIDS can

act as a metaphor (frightening). Darren Baker, 24 Brighton Road, University of Sussex, Brighton BN1 9SA.

Please include a full postal address, even on e-mailed letters, and a telephone number. We may edit letters: shorter ones are more likely to appear. We regret we cannot acknowledge those not used.

**Small shake-up**

**T**HE Victoria and Albert Museum is a boring and inconvenient building containing great treasure badly displayed (Letters, May 21, 22). If the interior spaces of the central Libeskind's new building can alleviate this, then this will be a great improvement. God forbid any repetition of the grey wasteland of the National Gallery extension. The exterior is exciting in a way that modern English buildings seldom are, although I do wonder whether this is just my reaction against the general debased eclecticism of recent new buildings in London. Peter Shield, 20 Willerby Road, Woodthorpe, Nottingham NG5 4PB.

**F**URTHER to your recent correspondence in search of the world's most famous newspaper headline (May 7, 9), I have found, and enclose a copy of, this supposedly mythical headline in Le Monde for December 30, 1966: "Peu de victimes au Chili à la suite du séisme". It can, of course, be loosely translated as "Small earthquake in Chile, not many dead". David Kemp, Flat 10, 20 Blackfriars Street, Glasgow G1 1PE.

**A loan is not a future**

**J**OHAN Gray (Money matters) on the campus, May 21) states that "there is no way in which the expansion of higher education can be maintained without transferring some of the cost to its ultimate beneficiaries". Absolutely — now let's ask ourselves who these ultimate beneficiaries are.

Who benefits from having nurses, doctors and teachers — mainly the individuals pursuing such careers or society as a whole? I suggest the latter. The community as a whole benefits from education and the community as a whole should pay for it through the taxation system.

Labour's new policy fails to address the question of payment of unemployment benefit to students over the summer vacation. Without a commitment to restoration of this benefit talk of broadening access is just cruel rhetoric. Simon Hewitt, Vice-chair/Secretary, Brunel Labour Students, Brunel University, Uxbridge UB8 3PH.

priorities if it is to succeed as a long-term governing project. Compared with primary and secondary education, higher education has done pretty well under the Tories. But working-class kids are denied access to higher education long before age 18. Only serious investment and meaningful reform of schools and colleges will smash the elitism which continues to throttle British universities. Tony Sampliner, 9 Doulton Gardens, Poole, Dorset.

**D**ESPITE what you say, we welcomed the new technology colleges and believe their specialism can be developed in partnership with other local schools (Labour backs aptitude tests for technology college pupils, May 21). On the tests, we pointed out that the research would not be published until after the next election. A new government might consider using them to assist with value-added performance research. The Technology College Trust, which currently encourages banding as a way of achieving a fully comprehensive intake, might use the tests to assist them in developing their policy. David Blunkett (MP), Shadow Secretary for Education and Employment, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.

**Hurd but not seen in Bosnia**

**E**D VULLIAMY makes a convincing case for America's part in ducking the issue of military intervention in the early days of the Bosnian conflict (America's big strategic lie, May 20).

But it was, in fact, the British ex-Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd who "led the consensus" at a meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers in September 1991, in opposing the introduction of an international force into Yugoslavia to establish the conditions for peace.

Had this proposal been unanimously backed by the EC, America would have been unlikely to oppose it, especially as the US Secretary of State James Baker had, by that time, a number of misgivings over his earlier insistence on maintaining the unitary state.

Moreover, given the opposition to Serbian President Milosevic within Serbia at the time, and the Yugoslav army recruitment problems, due to massive draft-dodging by Serbs reluctant to be perceived as their fellow countrymen, it is probable that the serious threat of military action by a united European Community, when the war was still confined to Croatia, would have prevented it from escalating to Bosnia at all. Carole Hodge, Research Fellow, Institute of Russian and East European Studies, University of Glasgow, 29 Bute Gardens, Glasgow G12 8RS.

**A Country Diary**

**HIGHLANDS:** Not a week goes by now without me hearing of predators attacking poultry and the latest incident happened to my nearest neighbour half a mile away. Sometime between 5.30 and seven in the evening, a predator killed two small hens, leaving one headless corpse in the garden and taking the other away. The blame was laid squarely at the door of a pine marten although the animal was not seen. At the house in question other birds have been taken in the past and, on at least one occasion, the animal — a pine marten — was caught in a hutch for cockerles, most of which were dead or dying. In the Highlands such a situation is normal these days and many people — now including my neighbour — have stopped keeping any poultry because of such predation. So the pine marten is getting a bad press. But, in some cases, it may not be a pine marten as there are plenty of other predators, although most of them will operate under the cover of dark-

ness. Mink, for example, are now scattered throughout the Highlands and, on some of the outer isles, they are a serious problem — not only to poultry but also to wild birds, such as ground nesting waders and terns. Polecat ferrets seem to be on the increase along with stoats. Despite persecution fox numbers seem to be thriving and they will sometimes seek prey during the daytime although, again, they are mostly about at night. My advice is to make sure all poultry are locked away each night, but there is a fine line between getting them away and when the predators are about. Later in the year there is even more chance of birds being taken in daylight as there are so few hours of darkness for hunting. Feral cats and wildcats can also be a problem, especially the former, as so many domestic cats get dumped in the Highlands — and they certainly hunt by both day and night. Meanwhile, pine martens continue their spread to the south and east. RAY COLLIER

John 20150



Diary  
Matthew Norman

WTFH presidential elections loom. Bill Clinton continues to dodge danger with immense grace. His latest escape concerns the civil law suit of Paula Jones, who seeks compensation for what the law calls "improper behaviour" to a subordinate... or "flashing his willy in an Arkansas hotel room and angling for a blowjob", as Mary Whitehouse insists on calling it.

NEWS that my friend Mandy Mandelson (we had a little spat, you will recall, but we made up now) was the only New Labour character at last week's dinner for Jacques Chirac has failed to delight his colleagues. He only went because no one else wanted to, I sniffs someone in Gordon Brown's office. How convincing. Dinner with the President of France, or a quiet night in with the telly? You can see why poor old Mandy got lumbered, can't you?

HEAR suggestions that my old friend Douglas Hogg, the agriculture minister, may have fallen short of perfection in his handling of the BSE crisis, and is likely to be in the next reshuffle. People say he is not only useless but horrendously arrogant too. I find this very hard to believe. Why, only a few weeks ago, when the crisis was at its most intense, his European counterparts wanted to arrange an emergency meeting on a Saturday. Douglas wasn't having it. "I don't work Saturdays," he intoned. "I go home to Sarah on Saturdays." Bless his heart, he's doing the best he can.

IF Douglas does stay in the Cabinet, this may be connected with a sense of loyalty Mr Major feels towards Sarah. While he was Chancellor, the now Lady Hogg was not only a key adviser (she persuaded him that the BRM was a splendid idea), but also Economics Editor of the Daily Telegraph. During the Tory leadership election in 1990, the then Mrs Hogg was asked in the editorial conference if she thought the paper ought to support Mr Major. Certainly not, she said. Major was too fragile, too inexperienced and too immature, and he simply wasn't ready for the job. The Telegraph went for Douglas Hurd and, shortly after Mr Major's victory, Mrs Hogg left the Telegraph to take up another position... as head of the Prime Minister's policy unit in Number 10.

THE Police Bravery Awards ceremony is today at the Savoy. Neither the Police Federation nor the Sun, the event's sponsor, will discuss the guest of honour's identity, on grounds of strict confidentiality. I wouldn't mention that it is, in fact, John Major, had Michael Howard not blurted it out to last week's Police Federation conference in Scarborough. Must be one of those colds of his coming on.

IN today's look at Brandreth's Brainstorm, the Chester MP's diverting puzzle page in OK! magazine, we come to "Celebrity Square". Three celebrities — Zoe Ball, Peter Bowles and Norman Bowler — are pictured, and your task is two-fold: first, work out what they have in common (that's Ball, Bowler and Bowler: concentrate); and then decide in which order they should appear. It's just so devilishly clever, isn't it? The electors of Chester should be very proud.



# Frogs and krauts fill heads with hate

## Commentary Martin Kettle

It comes as a shock to be reminded just how easily the British can don the mantle of a nation at war. You spoke for Britain, Nicholas Winterbottom told John Major in the Commons on Tuesday, consciously repeating the resonant words which Leo Amery uttered during the real crisis of 1940. Many who listened to Major's statement also caught echoes of Neville Chamberlain's broadcast of September 1939. Major goes "To War At Last" said the front-page headline in the Daily Mail. The Sun adorned its front cover with a picture of Churchill. And yesterday morning the Press Association was even reporting the formation of a War Cabinet.

Of course it is not war really. No one is actually going to get killed in this battle with our foes across the main — unless you count several thousand dumb and perhaps infected cattle who will be culled senseless and incinerated in the cause over the coming weeks. But the spirit

of something very similar to war is on the march and we must all decide whether we will join its ranks or not. Among the European nations this could probably only happen in Britain and Greece, though conceivably also in Russia. For among the EU nations it is only in Britain that there is this genuine and deep cultural yearning to relive the last war, and for the nation to stand historically apart from its neighbours. Anyone who thought that this instinct was dead, laid gently to rest in the long prosperous European reconciliations of the second half of the 20th century, must think again.

The pent-up resentments of British nationalism have found another cause to rally for. By threatening non-cooperation with Europe, John Major has not just made the latest tactical manoeuvre in the long struggle to control the Conservative Party. He has let a nationalist genie out of the bottle which he will find it hard to put back. Note the Mail's "war at last". These are happy, fulfilled people. This is finally a part of the nation at ease with itself. A nation at war. Or playing our youth, and wakened us from sleeping. We are heading back into the world of Oh What A Lovely War.

This is not an entirely fanciful parallel, though it actually leads towards a conclusion which the Europhobes

and 1960s, the war seemed to be parental business, not ours. Yet we have turned out to be carriers too. Fourteen years ago, many were surprised by the capacity of the Falklands crisis to reawaken a bastion version of the wartime spirit. Now, fully 51 years after the end of the last European war, an even more bizarre mutation of the bulldog spirit is on view in the battle for British beef.

In some ways the true emotional parallel this week is not the grim determination of September 1939, when there was an overwhelming sense that the nation was embarking on a hazardous and perhaps terminal war against a ruthless, evil and powerful enemy. Nor is it the summer of 1940, when Britain genuinely stood alone in the cause of the peoples of Europe. A much more real parallel is surely with the glad confident morning of August 1914. The truly striking characteristic of the Conservative Party this week has been its cathartic delight. One recognises in Tories a version, albeit a degenerate one, of "Now God be thanked who has matched us with his hour! And caught our youth, and wakened us from sleeping." We are heading back into the world of Oh What A Lovely War.

will not like. In earlier times, the struggle for international markets was a cause of real wars. If this was 1896 not 1996, the fleet would almost certainly be steaming for Wilhelmshaven and we would be flooding the Channel Tunnel. The fact that no British lives are likely to be lost in this latest conflict is due to the success, not the failure, of the European Union.

The Europhobes cannot see this. For the more cerebral among them, the argument about beef is simply a surrogate for an almost sacred and mystical cause, the reawakening of British nationhood. For those with the light of martyrdom in their eyes this promise to be a truly purgative moment, just as 1914 was for Rupert Brooke, in which the folly and the humiliations of the European ensnarement can be expunged in a moment of national purification.

Not everyone who rallies to the sound of the drum thinks this way, of course. There is none of the high-minded classical Powellism of the Europhobe commentators in the instinctual xenophobia which sustains the foot-soldiers of this army. When John Townsend says that Germans only understand the language of force, when Teresa Gorman says she wants to stuff British beef into German sausages, or when the Sun offers you 20 ways to be rude to the Germans, then we are witnessing something far nastier, far

cruder and far more dangerous in our politics than anything we have witnessed in our public life for decades. The surreal qualities of the beef crisis ought not to blind us to its deeply serious consequences. Since we cannot go to real war, we can only go to pretend war. And since we will never win — and indeed have never fought — a real war against the combined forces of Germany and France, there can be no real victory or no defeat.

This presents us, nevertheless, with a very real choice. Do we continue to live in the fantasy world of Hum Bashing or do we try, at last, to set ourselves free from these harmful and dead-end delusions? Do we, in other words, work with the other European nations in the only kind of international alliance which makes sense for a nation in this part of the globe at this time, or do we set ourselves against it?

The entire logic — if that word can be used in this context — of the Conservative Party's position is that we can never make the European choice. The Conservative Party can go to Europe, but it cannot be European. Instead, it must remain British, and proved and others may shortly become the British, or even the English, nationalist party.

# Housing to let — but what's the cost?



Natasha Walter

THE Government says: "Yes, it hurts," as if they could consign their own policies to history. But why the past tense? For some people, the hurt goes on. "The homeless" have sometimes become a metaphor rather than a reality; a metaphor for the cruelty of the free market, or of the fecklessness of young people. But their lives are complicated, ongoing, real. Mr All (not his real name), a quiet, dignified chap, lives in west London with his wife and child. We meet in his local centre for the homeless, where he softly recites his story. He has medical problems, and can't work. For a time he rented a one-room flat, but it was squallid and tiny and cost more than his housing benefit. So he became homeless, and Westminster Council stepped in.

Now he lives in a hotel. He and his family share a kitchen with 50 other people, and share their one small room with countless cockroaches. It's not quite the place to start a child's life. And that can hurt. "She is suffering," he says quietly of his wife.

Subt Negi, who works at the Baywater Homeless Project, sees dozens of people like Mr All. They're not sleeping in the streets, and they're too proud to beg. They go on dealing with desperate situations behind doors all over London. Still, if they find a secure home, she says, those families are transformed. "The family can settle down, the children change totally. Their lives change totally. They make friends, they get to know the area, they start their lives up again."

But new legislation will make it even more difficult for families like Mr All's to find a secure home. A new Housing Bill is currently passing through the Lords and will become law later this summer. In it, the accepted duty of local authorities to provide permanent housing for homeless people in priority need — including families with young children — is snuffed out.

Now, local authorities will only have to provide accommodation for two years. And if there is any suitable accommodation in the area, says the bill, the local authority can just direct homeless people to it.

The thrust of this legislation will be to push more and more families like Mr All's out into a secure home with a housing association or the

council, but into the private rented sector. That can certainly sound like a good idea; social housing has been run down, but flats are lying empty and families want them, so let the market do its work. But the tale that Mrs Smith (not her real name) tells me shows up the inherent problems. Mrs Smith lives in Wandsworth, where the local authority has begun to place homeless families in the private sector.

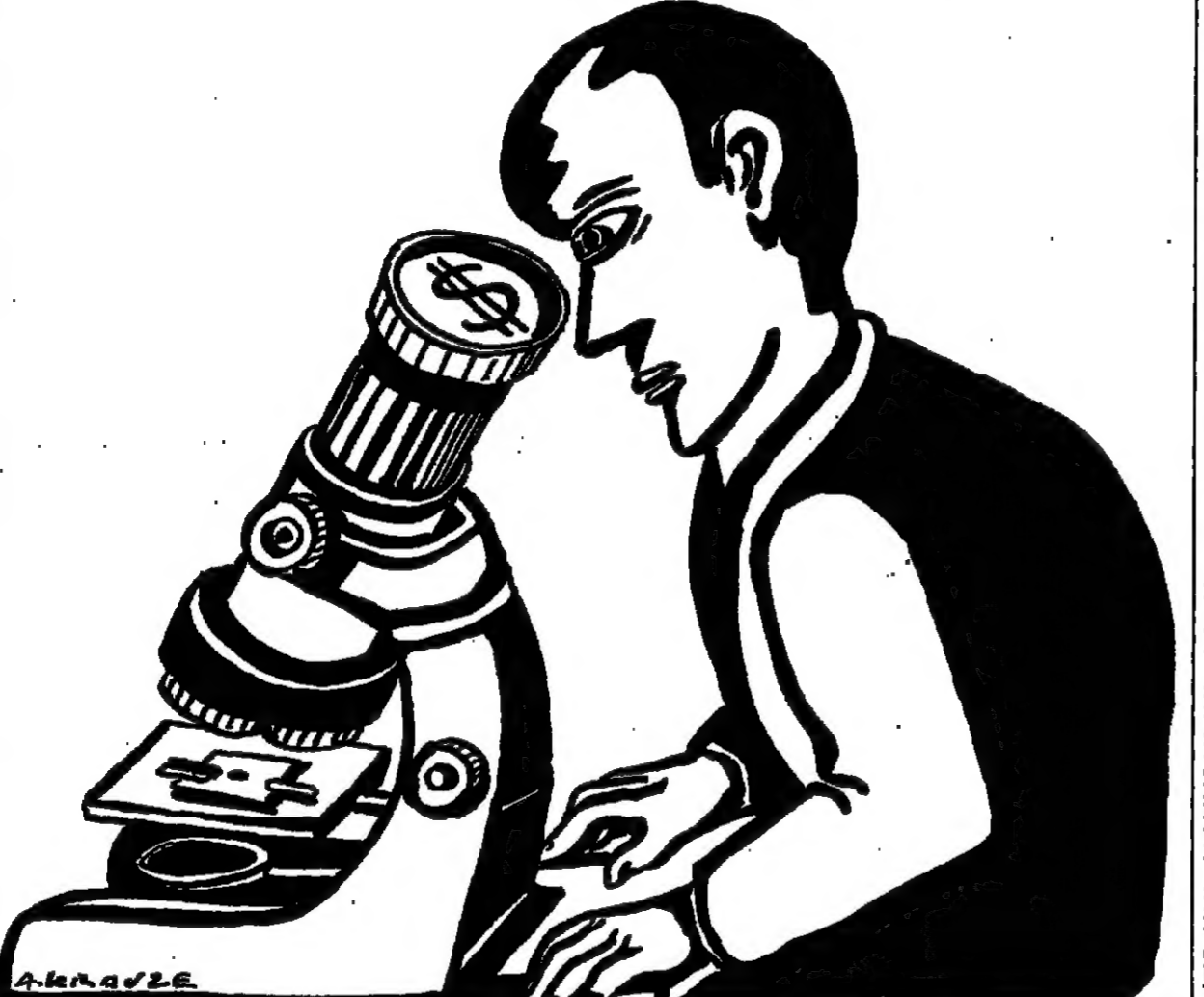
She lives with her husband and four children, one of whom is deaf. Their own house was repossessed in 1990 when they couldn't keep up the mortgage repayments. Since becoming homeless they have lived at four addresses, moving the child from school to school. At one time, the six of them spent eight months in one room in a hotel. Eventually, the council found them their present home, a grossly private tenement. "The council says they can't do anything more for us, but this flat needs so much work. It's horrible. The landlord won't do the work, but we can't because we don't know how long we'll be here. You can't live like this, it's not home," she says hopefully.

Research published this week by the London Research Centre shows that Mrs Smith is frighteningly typical. Most of the homeless families placed in the private sector by local authorities had little security, relying on short-term tenancies of six months or a year. The continual question — what next? — haunts them, and Mrs Smith's story is a warning of what might happen next had rubbed off on her daughter, who was seeing a child psychologist, and "thought her mother was about to move home and leave her behind".

MORE, the policy of paying expensive, private-sector rents through housing benefit can grip unemployed families in a vicious poverty trap. Low-paid work is no good to them, because it won't cover the loss of their housing benefit, and so they get stuck doing nothing in order to keep a roof over their heads.

Even if it hurts, does this policy work? Chris Holmes, the director of Shelter, has tried to convince the Government that it's not just for moral reasons that they should rethink the policy of using the private rented sector to cover up gaps in social housing. "It's misguided and expensive," he says succinctly. "A government that chooses to pay landlords rather than act as the landlord faces a vast and growing housing benefit bill. Up and up it goes, now rising over £10 billion a year.

In little ways and big ways, the families can show us that when people get hurt, the state isn't really working.



# Wars of the genes

Ellen Solomon argues that the potential of the 'breast-cancer' gene must not be jeopardised by private profit, while below, David King calls for democratic decision-making

WITHIN the last 18 months or so, scientists have at an unprecedented rate been isolating genes whose mutations lead to diseases. Progress has been so rapid that even those working in the field are finding it difficult to keep up with developments. Until recently, most human geneticists were looking to isolate genes in which mutations lead to rare inherited disorders with clear-cut genetic patterns, and which

often affect children, such as cystic fibrosis, or muscular dystrophy. But as the power to analyse DNA has increased dramatically — helped by new mathematical models and computer programs — attention has focused more on the genetic component of much more common adult diseases, such as diabetes, heart disease and cancer.

It is this rapid progress in isolating genes whose mutations can lead to cancer, and in particular breast cancer, that is provoking a furious debate in the United States. This week a coalition of hundreds of women's and health groups formed to oppose a biotechnology company's attempt to patent a gene linked with breast cancer. Myriad Genetics, a Utah-based company, wants to patent the gene it identified in 1994, known as BRCA1. Women with a mutated version of the gene have an 85 per cent chance of developing breast cancer; Myriad plans to charge them \$500 for testing kits to screen for it.

Myriad isolated BRCA1 after a highly publicised, high-profile race among many labs around the world. In many cases, the early research had been funded by charities and governments; but Myriad poured large sums of money into the later stages. It claims that only by gaining a patent can it recoup

its investment. A patent gives a company the power to make huge financial gains on any diagnostic or therapeutic developments connected with a gene. It is one thing for patents to be granted for novel and innovative developments (such as testing kits); but it is another for them to be granted for the gene itself. The law is still unclear on the issue, but I am afraid that with the speed of developments we are on a slippery slope, with the risk that practice is determined according to commercial pressures.

Once a gene is patented, the owner gains the sole right to develop a test for it, and to distribute, to set charges for, and to monitor the results of such a test. Here lies the problem. Many genetic tests (including that for BRCA1) are arguably ready for public use. Yet we still do not know

enough about the gene, about how to advise women as to their best course of action, about how to predict the effects of the mutations. Most scientists working in the field see it as unconscionable that a test should be offered over the counter at this stage; it should instead be offered in a research setting, with a genetic counsellor back-up. Some even argue that all testing should be done anonymously at this stage, as we are not in a position to know exactly what the results mean. But even those who occupy the middle ground, and who believe women are entitled to know, argue that high-level counselling is vital.

THERE are major implications for a woman (and her family) who is told that she has an 85 per cent risk of developing breast cancer, and in some cases of developing ovarian cancer. If she already has breast cancer, a positive test might suggest that she is at a high risk of relapse. And yet a sister or mother has had breast cancer, it is not clear whether she should have very careful surveillance or a bilateral mastectomy. We simply do not yet know if either is effective.

The law is still unclear on the issue, but I am afraid that with the speed of developments we are on a slippery slope, with the risk that practice is determined according to commercial pressures. Once a gene is patented, the owner gains the sole right to develop a test for it, and to distribute, to set charges for, and to monitor the results of such a test. Here lies the problem. Many genetic tests (including that for BRCA1) are arguably ready for public use. Yet we still do not know

WVF IS WORKING HARD TO SAVE ENDANGERED SPECIES. Here's how to give us extra financial help — at no extra cost to you — without endangering your own finances! Simply switch to the WVF Visa Card: No annual fee, Low purchase interest rates — just 13.9% APR (variable), Pay off existing borrowing at just 13.9% APR, fixed for six months. Plus, WVF receives a royalty when you take out your card and ongoing donations every time you use it for purchases — at no extra cost to you. That's extra cash we can use to save endangered species. You don't need to be a WVF supporter to apply. So send the coupon for your FREE information pack, or call the FREEPHONE number. 0800 77 62 62 Please quote ref: BT 47. Please rush me my FREE WVF Visa Card information pack. Name (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms): Address: Postcode: Home tel no: (IMPORTANT) Please return to: WVF International Bank Ltd, PO Box 1048, FREETOWN, CHESTER, CH2 1ZZ

## Business gets the upper hand

THE new American coalition set up to oppose the patenting of the BRCA1 gene argues, in the view correctly, that human genes are the property of society at large. In Britain the response to the issue has been much slower. Breast Cancer Care is supporting the US campaign, as is the Genetics Forum, a specialist group which campaigns on genetic-engineering issues. In fact, campaigns against patents on life (including patents on plants and even animals) have been running for years. They have had

notable successes, such as the rejection by the European Parliament last year of an EU directive to allow such patents. But even though multinational companies have already patented more than 1,500 human genes, campaigners say they have great difficulty getting most people to see the issues' relevance. Yet, as the US activists have noted, there is a link to the much more widely discussed problems raised by the revolution in human genetics: genetic discrimination and eugenics. The real question underlying

debates over patenting, insurance discrimination and premature marketing of genetic tests directly to the public is whether genetics is being driven by the public interest or by commerce. In the US it is very clear that commerce has the upper hand. The business-as-usual approach gives industry a free hand, and relegates awkward ethical and social problems that arise to committees. Where is the public's voice in all this? Decisions on research are taken in corporate boardrooms and in "public" funding com-

mittees composed entirely of scientists. But the public has a vital interest in deciding, for example, whether we spend 22 billion of taxpayers' money on the Human Genome Project. The UK Medical Research Council is currently deciding whether it will fund a search for genes which influence IQ, with all the massive social implications; yet the public is frozen out of such decisions. The Genetics Forum says it plans to campaign for a genetic privacy law, but the problems raised by genetics are much bigger than that. Although a privacy law would help, the idea that genetics is a purely private matter partly reinforces the problem. It is in the



Financial Editor: Alex Brummer  
Telephone: 0171-239-9610  
Fax: 0171-833-4456

# Finance Guardian

Consortium withdraws £1bn buy-back plan after Granada decides against selling French chain

## Sir Rocco drops hotels bid

**S**ir Rocco Forte last night surprised the City by withdrawing his £1 billion bid to buy back part of his old hotel empire from Granada, after Granada decided against selling Meridien, its French hotel chain.

Granada chairman Gerry Robinson said the company believed that it would create more value for shareholders by keeping Meridien, and "significantly improving their performance" than it would by selling them.

Forté when the chain was put up for sale by its original owner, Air France, in 1994. However, Marriott is still thought to be interested in buying some of the luxury hotels, along with Saudi investor Prince al-Waleed Bin Talal, and the Sultan of Brunei's younger brother, Prince Jefri Bolkiah, who already owns Asprey, the royal jeweller.

## Mexican wave for Camdessus



Edited by Alex Brummer

**A**NYONE betting on a third term for the International Monetary Fund's managing director, Michel Camdessus, in the aftermath of the Madrid annual meeting in 1994, would have been labelled a lunatic.

ALM, which plans to use the meetings to tell the names about Lloyd's £3.1 billion rescue plan is outraged by the attempted sabotage which it suspects has been carried out by other US Names.



## Welsh fear losing out on investment as Forsyth plans Korea move

**WILLIAM** Hague, Welsh Secretary, probably had his eye on the more distant goal of Korea when he opened a new factory for Taiwan's Ringtel Electronics in Cwmbran, Gwent, yesterday, writes David Goss.

## Clinton ire raised over Cuba trade

**T**he US is standing firm in row with western allies over Castro, reports Larry Elliott in Paris

## IMF emergency loan boost widens circle of global finance leaders

**Alex Brummer** Financial Editor

## Meridien switch

**G**RANADA, normally one of Britain's more decisively managed blue-chip companies, is starting to look positively schizophrenic in its attitude to the Meridien Hotels chain.

## Lloyd's yanked

**M**ORE skulduggery at Lloyd's of London. Well, in the US actually, it seems that persons unknown have sent forged letters to some Californian Names falsely telling them that meetings set up by the Association of Lloyd's Members have been cancelled. The

## Watchdogs bite in Britain and US

**E**lectricity firms fail to issue codes of practice that would assist customers on low incomes

## 350 jobs go as Liberty shuts branches in profits drive

**L**IBERTY, the upmarket retailer of fabrics and furnishings, is to shut all its branches in the UK at the cost of 350 jobs as part of a wide-ranging shake-up aimed at restoring profitability.

TOURIST RATES - BANK BELLS

Australia 1 8425	France 7.65	Italy 2.309	Singapore 2.08
Austria 16.90	Germany 2.550	Malta 0.250	South Africa 0.36
Belgium 46.59	Greece 360.00	Netherlands 9.53	Spain 188.00
Canada 2.02	Hong Kong 11.38	New Zealand 2.15	Sweden 10.11
Cyprus 0.6970	India 52.82	Norway 9.72	Switzerland 1.850
Denmark 8.77	Ireland 0.9400	Portugal 223.00	Turkey 112.008
Finland 7.08	Israel 4.95	Saudi Arabia 5.84	USA 1.4735

Germany's biggest corporate loss brings accusations of deceit and incompetence • New chief says he will restore group to glory

# Shareholders aim barrage of abuse at Daimler elite

Jan Traynor in Bonn

**D**AIMLER-Benz, Germany's biggest industrial group, held its centenary annual meeting in Stuttgart yesterday amid unprecedented shareholder unrest over record losses, allegations of executive deceit and a battle with its former supervisory board member over plans to shed another aerospace subsidiary.

Jürgen Schrempf, the flamboyant Daimler chief, receiving a baptism of fire at his first agm as board chairman, told some 10,000 shareholders in Stuttgart: "There is no doubt that the months just elapsed are among the most dramatic in the more than 100 years history of our firm. But he promised they would soon be proud of the company once again.

The board and supervisory board were treated to contemptuous accusations of failure by a number of shareholders keen to see heads roll. At last year's annual meeting, Edzard Reuter, Mr Schrempf's predecessor, said that 1995 would see either growing, or at worst stable, profits.

Five weeks later, Mr Schrempf forecast losses of DM1.5 billion (\$660 million). The final losses were DM5.7 billion, the largest in German corporate history, and, for the first time in living memory, there was no dividend for shareholders.

As a result, disgruntled small shareholders filed suits against Mr Reuter, who was sacked last February, Mr Schrempf and Hilmar Kopper, head of Deutsche Bank, Germany's biggest commercial bank and Daimler's biggest shareholder and chairman of the Daimler supervisory board.

Mr Schrempf told shareholders that Mr Reuter's last annual report was based on a medium-range plan approved by both executive and supervisory boards.

Mr Reuter, he said, had referred to worries that arose in the weeks before the agm. "Unfortunately, these turned out to be justified" — so the accusations were untrue.

The past year has seen Daimler shed the Dutch aircraft manufacturer Fokker, a chronic loss-maker whose acquisition Mr Schrempf masterminded.

It has also broken up and closed most of the AEG house-

hold appliances subsidiary and is seeking to sell the Dornier Air subsidiary to the US firm Fairchild.

Thirty motions critical of the Daimler elite were tabled yesterday. In addition to allegations of incompetence and abuse of position, there were complaints from environmentalist shareholders and those campaigning against military sales.

Mr Schrempf, who insists he is cutting Daimler down to size to return it to profitability and promote "shareholder value", said Mercedes, the car division, was achieving a return on capital far above the 12 per cent he set as a target.

He reiterated that profits were the priority, promising unspecified measures to improve them, and "a positive result" for 1996.

"This company is once again on the way toward regaining the earnings strength that justified its outstanding reputation for many decades," he said.

Daimler reported sales to April this year up 9 per cent at DM32.1 billion, with Mr Schrempf saying he expects 1996 turnover to be "clearly above" last year's DM27.4 billion.



Not paying dividends... Jürgen Schrempf defends Daimler-Benz directors at a meeting of 10,000 shareholders in Stuttgart PHOTOGRAPH: GAMAY BUNDO

# Industry is going green but with reservations

Roger Cowe on how managers want tougher policing of laws

**B**ITISH business is turning greener as the Brent Spar oil rigiasco last year and new legislation have helped to push environmental issues way up the corporate agenda.

As a result, many top executives are now going beyond legal compliance, despite worries about cost and poor understanding of business benefits from environmental initiatives. They are not worried about the rising tide of green laws, but do want tougher policing of regulations.

These are the main findings from a survey\* of business environment trends, published yesterday, which suggests that an internal momentum has developed in many businesses that is sustaining developments despite the disappearance of the "green consumer".

"Seventy per cent of managers were more interested in environmental issues than a year ago. That is an astounding rate of increase", said Julie Hill of the Green Alliance, the lobbying group which was one of the sponsors of the survey. "This could translate into companies trying better to understand societal values. It may enable compa-

nies to act on that and move environmental policy forward more quickly than governments can."

The research shows that the greater interest is likely to lead to a majority of large companies adopting environmental policies, carrying out audits, vetting suppliers and publishing environmental reports.

But cost remains a big stumbling block, along with a lack of awareness of the paybacks green investments can bring.

Ms Hill linked these two factors, suggesting that greater awareness would make it clear that the cost of green initiatives is lower, and the benefits higher, than many executives expect.

She also drew attention to the attitude of business to environmental laws. The survey found that almost three-quarters of executives do not believe legislation is being passed while more than half think enforcement is not tough enough.

"The Government is allergic to regulation, but that is not something that rings true to business. In fact, there may be areas where businesses would welcome regulation."

Chris Farman, managing director of the Entec consultancy which co-sponsored the research, said it was clear that businesses want stricter enforcement.

*\*UK Business and Environment Trends Survey, published by Maffatt Associates, London NW1.*

# Bass notes rumour but plays up heady brands

OUTLOOK/ Surprisingly strong results allow brewer to deflate pressure on beer deal, reports Pauline Springett

**T**HE results were better than expected, the City was happy and the boss was keen to talk about the good bits... the hotels and the beer.

So it was a shame that chairman and chief executive Sir Ian "I cannot comment on market rumour" Prosser was so reluctant to discuss the progress of Bass's expected big deal — the purchase of Carlsberg Teltley from Allied Domecq.

"I read the rumours with great interest and I understand why they exist," said Sir Ian. "We are, after all, financially very strong and will be spending \$600 million on capital expenditure this year. Obviously we can buy things without a problem."

Brewing experts believed, said Sir Ian, that consolidation within the industry was inevitable if the average rate of return was to be increased.

It was, he suggested, a logical extension of such thinking to believe that Bass was manoeuvring to snap up Carlsberg Teltley. But, he said, the real growth in profits for the brewers was in brand innovation.

Witness, he said, the huge success of Carlsberg's Irish Ale, which Bass launched in March 1994 and which was now the company's third most valuable brand.

Other Bass brand successes, added Sir Ian, included the premium lager Grolsch, whose sales grew by 44 per cent in the first half of the year, and the recently launched alcoholic lemonade, the controversial Hooper's Hoop.

Now also available in orange and blackcurrant fla-

vours, Hooper's Hoop is Sir Ian's own brochure as "the UK's first and leading alcoholic carbonate, this refreshing fruit FAB (flavoured alcoholic beverage)".

It has, he suggests, the company, been "substantial for beer to a considerable extent".

A cynic might interpret this as another hint that Hoop is not aimed at under-age teenage drinkers.

The upshot of this is that Bass is planning to launch more branded drinks.

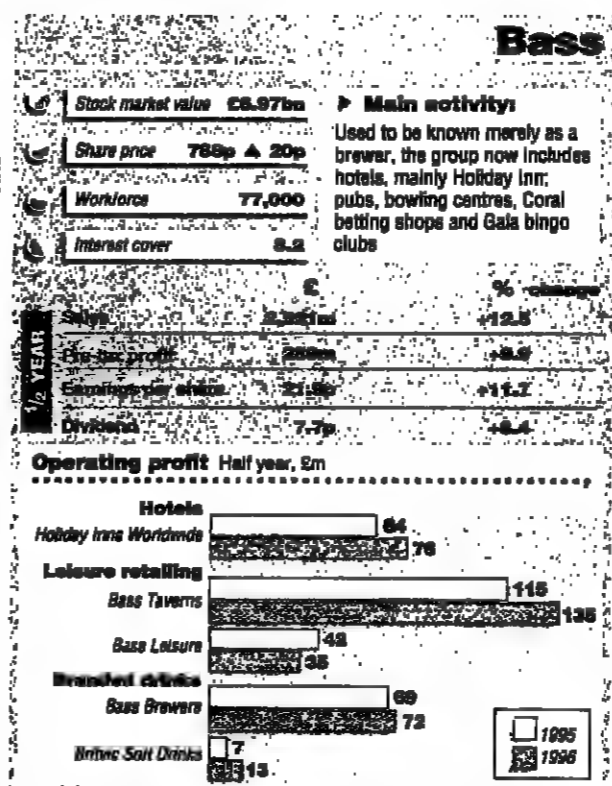
But, as those who have been paying attention will have noticed, it does not mean that the Carlsberg Teltley acquisition is off Bass's agenda.

In fact the market had partly expected the purchase to be announced along with the half-year results. It is a deal, which appears to suit all parties. Allied Domecq, half owner of Carlsberg Teltley, the UK's third largest brewer, is believed to be keen to sell its stake.

Carlsberg is understood to have been considering exchanging its stake in the joint venture for a minority stake in Bass. The difficulty, it appears, lies not with the parties but with the Office of Fair Trading.

The combined market share of Bass and Carlsberg Teltley would be around 49 per cent. Consequently, it seems likely that the OFT may be pushing for Bass to dispose of some of its tied pubs, something Bass would probably refuse to accept without a fight.

If the insiders are to be believed, the negotiations have reached fever pitch. But Sir



ian's decision to play down the issue was more than normal business reticence surrounding a deal which may be in the throes of extremely delicate discussion.

It also appeared to be an attempt to stress that although Carlsberg Teltley might indeed be a wise buy, it is not essential for the future well-being of the company.

If so, it is a stance which the figures generally bear out. All the divisions except the leisure retailing operation, which runs the betting, bingo halls and clubs, showed improved profits. Even here, Sir Ian refused to be too downbeat.

"I can't pretend it hasn't taken quite a battering," he said, although he stressed the division, which had been hit by competition from the National Lottery scratch cards, as well as the severe winter weather, was showing signs of recovery.

The big success story, apart from the pubs, was the hotel franchise Holiday Inns.

Mainly based in the US, it benefited from the addition of new hotels to the franchise, and the wedding out of others, as well as the upturn in the fortunes of the hotel industry generally.

Some 516 more hotels are in line to join the franchise and, if Bass can maintain this momentum, this part of the business shows no sign of running out of steam yet.

## News in brief

### Ex-tycoon guilty of fraud conspiracy

**F**ORMER property tycoon Simon Fussell and ex-stockbroker Rudi de Mendonca were yesterday found guilty of conspiracy to defraud a property group after being charged by the Serious Fraud Office in connection with an investigation into the now defunct Norton motorcycle maker. Mr de Mendonca was also found guilty of two charges of forgery.

Both men have been remanded on bail for sentencing at Southwark Crown Court on June 21. The case centred on the sale of a property called Exide House from property company Priest Marjans Holdings to furniture company Minty. Mr Fussell was a shareholder of both companies and also chairman of Minty.

The SFO said Mr Fussell had made a "secret and dishonest profit" from the sale of Exide House because it was sold to a fictitious person before being sold to Minty. In the interim, a lease was created at a premium of \$660,000. — Pauline Springett

### Director awaits IR move

**G**RAEME McCallum, one of the two directors of construction group Alfred McAlpine arrested last Thursday, said yesterday that he was hoping to hear details on possible charges he may face "as soon as possible". Mr McAlpine, along with non-executive McAlpine director Eric Grove, was speaking after the group's annual meeting in London.

During the meeting, outgoing chairman Sir John Milne refused to say anything about last week's events, reiterating that the arrests — which followed Ireland Revenue inquiries — were related to "personal matters". He reported, however, that current trading was "in line with expectations", adding that margins remained under pressure. — Ian King

### William Hill write down

**B**RENT Walker, the crashed 80s conglomerate formerly run by George Walker, yesterday stunned the City by writing down the value of William Hill, its betting chain, by £263.7 million to £427.9 million. At the same time, Brent Walker said operating profits at William Hill had fallen by 25 per cent, to £51.3 million, mainly because of the National Lottery.

Brent Walker is also writing down the value of its Pubmaster pubs estate by £17.9 million, although profits improved at the chain from £18.3 million to £16.3 million. Overall, before interest payments were taken into account, Brent Walker made a pre-tax loss of £25.8 million against profits of £45.8 million the previous year. However, interest payments swelled this to £409.3 million, while the group's debts now stand at £1.5 billion. The shares closed down 1/4p at 2 3/4p. — Ian King

### Developer's spending peaks

**L**AND Securities, Britain's biggest property company, said yesterday that its spending on developments would peak this year.

Speaking as the company announced a slight fall in full-year pre-tax profits, from £244.7 million to £238.7 million, chairman Peter Hunt said the likely cost of the programme would be around £435 million.

Commenting on the results, Mr Hunt said the levels of rental growth the group had expected had "failed to materialise", adding that rental growth had generally been "patchy". However, he said there had been a more significant improvement in rents at retail warehouses, a sector in which Land Securities now has a portfolio worth over £517 million. Its shares fell 2p to 641p on the statement. — Ian King

### Consumer contracts boost

**T**HE Office of Fair Trading (OFT) has taken action against more than 280 companies for including unfair terms in consumer contracts. The OFT has received more than 700 complaints from consumers and trading standards officers about unfair terms since last July when new European regulations on consumer contracts came into force.

According to an OFT bulletin published yesterday, the most common unfair terms are "catch-all" clauses which are intended to exclude business from all liability from loss or damage even where caused by the companies' own negligence. In the majority of cases, the OFT has ordered companies to remove or amend the offending clauses. — Ian Wylie

### Telecom jobs on the line

**R**ON Sommer, chairman of Deutsche Telekom, Germany's soon-to-be-privatised telecom monopoly, provided grim news for employees yesterday when he said he expected to make a double operating profit to DM16.3 billion (£7 billion) by 2000. Industry sources believe such profits growth could only be achieved by savage reductions in the workforce. Mr Sommer told the German magazine Capital that he expected the group's stock market launch in November to be more successful than currently expected. — Nicholas Bannister

### Nintendo's game comeback

**N**INTENDO profits rose for the first time in three years, with the strengthening dollar more than compensating for a fall in sales. Japan's top manufacturer of computer game players said that pre-tax profits for the parent company in the past financial year rose 19.9 per cent to 117.1 billion yen (£723 million). "Our profits got a lift from the dollar's rise," Hiroshi Imanishi, a managing director at Nintendo, said. The dollar's ascent from about 90 yen last year to 106 yen this year inflated Nintendo's profits by 30.3 billion yen. — Bloomberg

# Volatile prices cause cash evaporation at Courtaulds

Roger Cowe

**C**OURTAULDS, the chemicals group, is negotiating long-term contracts with leading suppliers in order to reduce the price volatility that resulted in a 19 per cent fall in 1995 profits, which were reported yesterday.

Sipko Huisman, retiring as chief executive, said the acrylic and viscose fibre business had "a very, very bad year" because of the volatility of raw-material prices as the chemical industry emerged from recession.

The price of acrylonitrile tripled before falling back to a level only slightly above where it started. Wood pulp, the raw material for viscose, rose in price from \$500 per tonne to \$1,200 before returning to \$600.

Mr Huisman said: "It is no way to run an industry for grown-ups." His designated successor, Gordon Campbell, said the company already had two agreements in place to purchase prices to selling prices, and more were being discussed.

"It's good for the suppliers as well to avoid the kind of

volatility we have seen. It is an industry trend, but it needs a shock like we had last year to get it going."

As a result of price volatility, profits in the fibre and chemicals division fell by more than a quarter to £28 million, causing a reduction in group profits from £151 million to £91 million.

The coatings and sealants division reported a £10 million profit rise to £71 million.

Tencel, the group's new fibre, which handles like silk but has the durability of denim, moved into profit for the first time. Demand continues to exceed what Courtaulds can produce, despite adding extra manufacturing capacity. A fourth plant will be added in the Far East, following expansion in Grimsby and Mobile, Alabama.

Courtaulds is planning a marketing campaign to stimulate consumer interest in Tencel, which is available in clothes ranging from jeans to cocktail dresses. But the publicity will not appear until autumn 1998, when the extra production from Grimsby makes Tencel available in volume.

# Underside

Roger Cowe

**I**T'S TOUGH getting idioms right in a foreign tongue. Hans Alders, a continental official from the UN Environment Programme, attempted to praise British business the other night by saying the country was shedding its image as "the dirty old man of Europe". Since he was talking about environmental matters, he probably meant "dirty man". But on the other hand, given Underside's recent experience of Human Resource executives (reported last week), perhaps not.

**M**ARKS & Spencer's deputy chairman, Keith Oates, was unusually volatile at the annual results presentation. An air of less-than-usual reverence has crept into his attitude to the boss, perhaps since it became apparent that he may be deputy chairman for some time, following chairman Sir Richard Greenbury's reappointment for another five years. At one point Sir Richard observed: "My col-

leagues are always trying to catch me out."

"Not with much success," interrupted Oates, to general astonishment.

**I**T'S rough at the top, as Sunday Times business section editor John Jay is discovering. Jay was recruited from the Sunday Telegraph last year after Jeff Randall moved temporarily into PR. Now Randall has returned as an associate editor with the right to roam anywhere through the ST's pages, a column rivaling Jay's on the business pages, and reportedly a direct line to proprietor Rupert Murdoch. After a few weeks of this creative tension, Jay is apparently feeling the strain.

**T**ALKING of top jobs, will David Peretz get the number two slot at the OECD? He is our man at the Treasury responsible for relations with such international bodies, and is being pushed strongly. But it is rumoured he may well fall foul of the Government's previous strenuous efforts in that direction, which failed to ease the greatest Chancellor of all time, Nigel Lawson, into the OECD top slot.

**D**EMONSTRATIONS at annual meetings are days. So Alfred McAlpine, the construction group, could hardly be blamed for taking on extra security at its agm yesterday, especially since environmentalists have recently acquired shares. McAlpine has been one of the main contractors on the controversial Newbury bypass, the focus of our biggest environmental protest.

In the event, the men in the hard hats need not have panicked. Only four shareholders, all grey-haired, bothered to turn up.

**A**CCIDENT-prone Allied Domecq set off on its latest adventure this week, selling ice cream to the Russians. This is the group which recently blamed bad weather in the southern states of the US for poor results from its Baskin-Robbins subsidiary. Undeterred, the company this week got Prince Michael of Kent to open a Moscow factory which can produce 8 million gallons a year. An executive explained: "Russian people eat ice cream throughout the year." So it wasn't snow on their boots, after all.

Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom of the page.

Cricket

Fresh start for new-look England

Mike Selvey on the much-changed team that begins a three-match one-day series against India today

ENGLAND'S four-year build-up to the new World Cup campaign begins at The Oval today with a shift in emphasis that many thought beyond those who manage English cricket.

The shake-up, before the dust has settled on the post-mortem file to England's disastrous World Cup, has been stimulated by a recent record in limited-overs internationals of only three wins in 13 matches played this year, and one in 11 against Test-playing opposition.

England's tardy preparation for the last World Cup was pathetic. A seven-match series against South Africa ought to have provided an opportunity to settle on a side and strategy for the coming few months. Instead, coming as it did at the end of a hard Test series, it was seen as an unnecessary and tiresome appendage.

Specialist batsmen or bowlers, as advocated by Imran Khan after Pakistan's triumph in the previous World Cup, are not enough now; instead specialist one-day players — not a derogatory term — who bowl to order and to a

field, but inventively, run like demons between the wickets, and field like there is no tomorrow are the order of the day. This England squad would have made a better fist of things on the subcontinent.

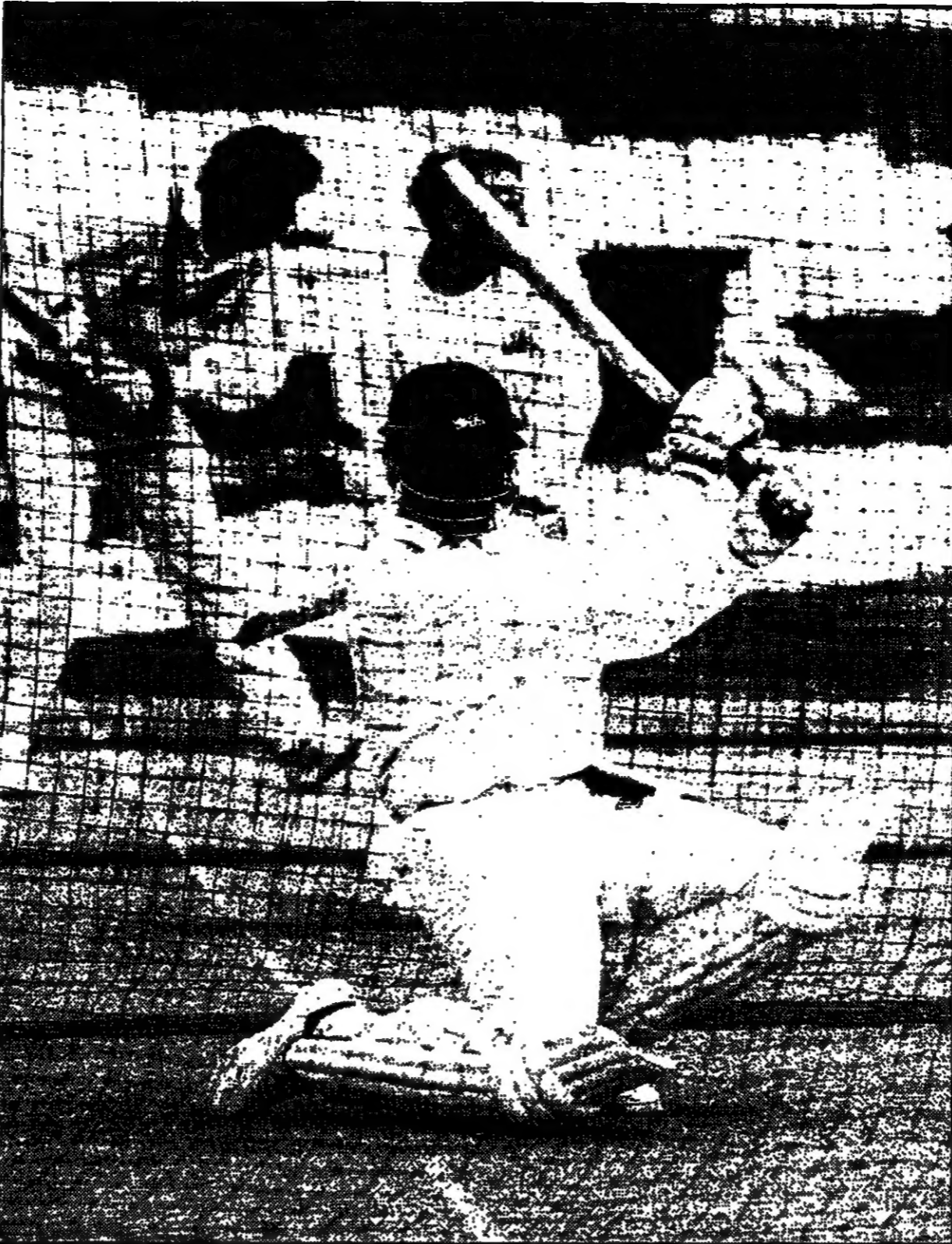
With the new regime, which includes a vibrant new coach in David Lloyd, comes the chance for new players — Ronnie Irani, Mark Ealham and Alistair Brown, all in their mid-twenties and therefore with a long-term interest to establish themselves and for a couple of failed stars, Chris Lewis and Matthew Maynard, to re-establish themselves in the new order.

The player from whom English cricket has most to gain is Lewis, the ultimate enigmatic cricketer. That he has the sort of talent beyond the dreams of most cricketers has never been in dispute; harnessing it has been another matter. But a change of English management and another move to the third county now, and at last he says, has found an environment in which he feels he can prosper — will make or break him. Giving him another chance is to be applauded but he knows the stakes are high now and he will not go another.

As one of the most uninhibited strikers of the ball in county cricket, Brown earns his chance in the wake of the vogue for top-of-the-order pinch-hitters in the World Cup and is an adventurous selection. One hopes, however, that England are not one move behind the game.

Already this season it has been shown that in English conditions, where the new ball seams more than in hotter climates and retains its shine longer, the fielding restrictions are not the cumbersome they were in India and Pakistan. Sachin Tendulkar, for instance, who opened the batting for India with such freedom and brilliance in the World Cup, has found it necessary to graft his runs on the ground on the innings in the recent limited-overs matches against Middlesex and Northamptonshire.

Two players might not get a game. With a damp game in prospect — there is a threat of



Another fine mesh... Maynard lets fly in the nets at a practice session at The Oval yesterday

showers — and The Oval pitch generally favouring pace, Mike Atherton might see little use for the spin of Neil Smith for any reason other than variety. That would point to Ealham, a tidy, intelligent bowler and bizzing batsman, making his debut while Smith and Irani sit it out.

If England have some credibility to claw back, so too do India after the sorry World Cup semi-final in Calcutta when Mohammad Asharud-

din won the toss, inserted Sri Lanka and paid a terrible price. That his house is still standing is a wonder; that he is still captain, a miracle.

There have been casualties, most notably Vinod Kambli (allegedly for nocturnal shenanigans during the tournament), but with Tendulkar, Asharudin, Sidhu and Manjrekar the betting remains formidable and in form. Doubts, however, remain about the quality of their bowling, which with the exception of

Srinath and Kumble has much of the inclusiveness of a Richard and Judy interview.

India have a relatively settled side, though, and the only debate this morning will be which of Suvraj Ganguly, an all-rounder, the spinner Sunil Joshi and pace bowler Paras Mhambrey plays. Paras in the springtime could be the answer.

Yawar Saeed, who played for Somerset in the mid-1980s, is to replace the sacked Imtiaz Khan as manager of Pakistan's forthcoming tour to England. Yawar Saeed managed Pakistan when they last toured England in 1992.

England's new squad includes: Alistair Brown (Sussex), Mark Ealham (Essex), Chris Lewis (Somerset), Matthew Maynard (Gloucestershire), Ronnie Irani (Kent), Sachin Tendulkar (India), Vinod Kambli (India), Sunil Joshi (India), Paras Mhambrey (India), Srinath (India), Kumble (India).

England's new squad includes: Alistair Brown (Sussex), Mark Ealham (Essex), Chris Lewis (Somerset), Matthew Maynard (Gloucestershire), Ronnie Irani (Kent), Sachin Tendulkar (India), Vinod Kambli (India), Sunil Joshi (India), Paras Mhambrey (India), Srinath (India), Kumble (India).

Rugby Union

Clubs look for more sympathy at RFU summit

Robert Armstrong

ENGLAND'S leading clubs will seize the opportunity to put the record straight on their competitive and financial demands for next season when they meet the full committee of the Rugby Football Union in London tomorrow. The clubs insist their case for wanting more money and control has not been fairly put whenever Cliff Brittle, the chairman of the RFU executive, has reported back to Twickenham after negotiations.

Peter Wheeler, who will represent the clubs with Donald Kerr and Sir John Hall, complained yesterday that the 65-man committee had not been made fully aware of the reasons behind the English Professional Rugby Union Clubs' demands for a fresh deal. The Leicester club's chief executive suggested some misrepresentation of the demands had undermined trust between the clubs and RFU representatives.

"We don't think our arguments have been getting through to the committee because of Cliff Brittle's negative attitude, which brings everything to a halt," said Wheeler. "We are hoping to make the most of this unique opportunity to state our case and present the relevant facts."

It will be the first time that the RFU's governing body, famously described by Will Carling last year as the "old fart", have come face to face with the principal movers and shakers in club rugby.

The Epruc delegation will spell out the nature of the problems at club level in holding on to their players and making plans for next season without a properly funded agreement to carry them into the professional era.

"Each club has in its squad around 20 to 30 young men who at the moment have no firm basis on which to plan their future careers," said Wheeler. "That situation cannot be allowed to continue; the time for decisions is imminent."

Wheeler believes there is more sympathy within the RFU for the top clubs' special needs than Brittle's hard-line response has seemed to indicate in recent months. Bill Bishop, the RFU president, who has called tomorrow's emergency meeting, is thought to favour some form of positive discrimination in favour of Epruc members in the distribution of income from television. Exactly how many members of the full committee support Bishop's more flexible stance remains to be seen.

In fact, the clubs have significantly toned down their original list of demands which would have allowed the RFU only a consultative or watchdog role in the administration of the clubs' affairs.

Epruc are now prepared to accommodate Twickenham's revised format for the Divisional Championship in November and December; they will also take part in the RFU's condensed version of the European Cup instead of insisting on a schedule of matches at regular intervals throughout the season.

The England No. 8 Dean Richards has been re-elected as captain of the Leicester Tigers for next season. Richards, who has led Leicester in 38 matches, finished ahead of the England wing Rory Underwood.

Andy Clarke, the fitness adviser with the Courage league side Sale and the rugby league club Halifax, has joined Ireland's management team with the responsibility of developing a fitness programme.

Wales' results have not improved significantly since then — their victory against France in March ended a record run of eight consecutive championship defeats — but they have an optimism and self-confidence not detected since 1988, when they last won the Triple Crown.

"We are conscious that we have to restore our reputation," said the captain Jonathan Humphreys. "What happened five years ago marked the nadir for Wales. Our standing was very low and it is good to have a chance to put the record straight."

When Wales first toured Australia and New Zealand they were given demanding itineraries, but world rugby's balance of power has long shifted. They will not be meeting Queensland and will play New South Wales four days before the first Test so the provincial side will be shorn of their current Wallabies.

The two internationals apart, the other Saturday fixtures involve ACT, whose performance in the Super 12 series was enhanced by a flood of imports from New South Wales. Traditional cannon-fodder.

The Wallabies will not choose their side until after Wales' match against ACT in Canberra, and they will have only three days together before the opening international.

Alex Evans, the former Cardiff and Wales coach who is now the Australian Rugby Union's national director of coaching, said: "Wales were a sorry sight in 1991, but they will be far more competitive this time and I anticipate a close series. They played some excellent rugby in the Five Nations and they will command the respect in Australia waiting in 1991."

The Wales coach Kevin Bowring is not setting any targets in terms of wins. "It will be a tough tour and I will judge our success or failure by the manner of performances," he said. "We are clawing our way up from the bottom rung of the international ladder and will be coming up against some of the best players in the world. We need to measure ourselves against the best and this is the perfect time for us."

Wales have toured New Zealand and Australia only twice before and their Test record stands at eight defeats out of eight.

"We have to make far more major tours," said the WRU's coaching director Terry Cobner, who was captain on the 1978 tour of Australia. "Kevin and I are currently drawing up a five-year programme. We need to visit countries like Australia and New Zealand regularly."

"We used to have a poor reputation as tourists and were seen as home birds, but tours were relatively rare then. Australia five years ago marked the lowest point but there will be no repeat of what happened then. Our intention is to leave the Australians remembering us as competitive on the field and good to have a beer with off it."

Whitaker... 'other business'

Whitaker... 'other business'

Whitaker... 'other business'

Whitaker... 'other business'

Whitaker... 'other business'

Whitaker... 'other business'

Whitaker... 'other business'

Whitaker... 'other business'

Whitaker... 'other business'

Whitaker... 'other business'

Whitaker... 'other business'

Whitaker... 'other business'

Whitaker... 'other business'

Whitaker... 'other business'

Whitaker... 'other business'

Whitaker... 'other business'

Whitaker... 'other business'

Whitaker... 'other business'

Whitaker... 'other business'

Whitaker... 'other business'

Whitaker... 'other business'

Whitaker... 'other business'

Wales beginning longest of hauls

David Plummer

on a tour to restore tattered reputations

WHEN Wales were last in Australia, in the dark days of 1991, they humiliated themselves on the field and disgraced themselves off it. As they have been constantly reminded in the weeks leading up to today's departure for an eight-match tour, they lost to New South Wales 71-8 and were then defeated 63-6 by Australia.

Their hosts' surprise turned to shock at the banquet after the international when a group of Wales players started bawling. "Woe! Wales wailing each other," screamed a headline in the Sydney Morning Herald, which questioned why the tourists had not shown as much fight on the field. "It will be some time before we welcome Wales back," said Terry Doyle, then the chief executive of the Queensland union.

Wales' results have not improved significantly since then — their victory against France in March ended a record run of eight consecutive championship defeats — but they have an optimism and self-confidence not detected since 1988, when they last won the Triple Crown.

"We are conscious that we have to restore our reputation," said the captain Jonathan Humphreys. "What happened five years ago marked the nadir for Wales. Our standing was very low and it is good to have a chance to put the record straight."

When Wales first toured Australia and New Zealand they were given demanding itineraries, but world rugby's balance of power has long shifted. They will not be meeting Queensland and will play New South Wales four days before the first Test so the provincial side will be shorn of their current Wallabies.

The two internationals apart, the other Saturday fixtures involve ACT, whose performance in the Super 12 series was enhanced by a flood of imports from New South Wales. Traditional cannon-fodder.

The Wallabies will not choose their side until after Wales' match against ACT in Canberra, and they will have only three days together before the opening international.

Alex Evans, the former Cardiff and Wales coach who is now the Australian Rugby Union's national director of coaching, said: "Wales were a sorry sight in 1991, but they will be far more competitive this time and I anticipate a close series. They played some excellent rugby in the Five Nations and they will command the respect in Australia waiting in 1991."

The Wales coach Kevin Bowring is not setting any targets in terms of wins. "It will be a tough tour and I will judge our success or failure by the manner of performances," he said. "We are clawing our way up from the bottom rung of the international ladder and will be coming up against some of the best players in the world. We need to measure ourselves against the best and this is the perfect time for us."

Wales have toured New Zealand and Australia only twice before and their Test record stands at eight defeats out of eight.

"We have to make far more major tours," said the WRU's coaching director Terry Cobner, who was captain on the 1978 tour of Australia. "Kevin and I are currently drawing up a five-year programme. We need to visit countries like Australia and New Zealand regularly."

"We used to have a poor reputation as tourists and were seen as home birds, but tours were relatively rare then. Australia five years ago marked the lowest point but there will be no repeat of what happened then. Our intention is to leave the Australians remembering us as competitive on the field and good to have a beer with off it."

Tennis

Becker out of French Open

BORIS BECKER has pulled out of next week's French Open because of a thigh injury.

The 28-year-old Australian Open champion tore a muscle on the inside of his right thigh in two places during his defeat by Switzerland's Marc Rosset in his opening World Team Cup match on Monday and had to pull out of yesterday's singles against Sergi Bruguera. David Prinosil was named as his replacement in Germany's round-robin group match against Spain.

"I am extremely disappointed," said Becker, the three-times Wimbledon champion who has never won a clay-court tournament. "The last six weeks' preparation on clay have been for nothing. Hopefully I will be back for the grass-court season."

Monica Seles, playing on a European court for the first time since a spectacular victory in Hamburg three years ago, survived five match points to defeat the Austrian Barbara Schett 3-6, 7-6, 6-2 at the Spanish Open in Madrid yesterday. Seles had not played since early February because of a shoulder injury.

Cricket

News and Scores

0891 22 88+

1 Day International

Live Commentary 28

Match Reports 29

Derbyshire 31

Leeds 32

Gloucestershire 34

Gloucestershire 36

Leeds 37

Leeds 38

Leeds 39

Leeds 40

Leeds 41

Leeds 42

Leeds 43

Leeds 44

Leeds 45

Leeds 46

Leeds 47

Leeds 48

Leeds 49

Leeds 50

Leeds 51

Leeds 52

Leeds 53

Leeds 54

Leeds 55

Leeds 56

Leeds 57

Leeds 58

Leeds 59

Leeds 60

Leeds 61

Leeds 62

Leeds 63

Leeds 64

Leeds 65

Leeds 66

Leeds 67

Leeds 68

Leeds 69

Leeds 70

Leeds 71

Leeds 72

Leeds 73

Leeds 74

Leeds 75

Leeds 76

Leeds 77

Leeds 78

Leeds 79

Leeds 80

Leeds 81

Leeds 82

Leeds 83

Leeds 84

Leeds 85

Leeds 86

Leeds 87

Leeds 88

Leeds 89

Leeds 90

Leeds 91

Leeds 92

Leeds 93

Leeds 94

Leeds 95

Leeds 96

Leeds 97

Leeds 98

Leeds 99

Leeds 100

Leeds 101

Leeds 102

Leeds 103

Leeds 104

Leeds 105

Leeds 106

Leeds 107

Leeds 108

Leeds 109

Leeds 110

Leeds 111

Leeds 112

Leeds 113

Leeds 114

Leeds 115

Leeds 116

Leeds 117

Leeds 118

Leeds 119

Leeds 120

Leeds 121

Leeds 122

Leeds 123

Leeds 124

Leeds 125

Leeds 126

Leeds 127

Leeds 128

Leeds 129

Leeds 130

Leeds 131

Leeds 132

Leeds 133

Leeds 134

Leeds 135

Leeds 136

Leeds 137

Leeds 138

Leeds 139

Leeds 140

Leeds 141

Leeds 142

Leeds 143

Leeds 144

Leeds 145

Leeds 146

Leeds 147

Leeds 148

Leeds 149

Leeds 150

Leeds 151

Leeds 152

Leeds 153

Leeds 154

Leeds 155

Leeds 156

Leeds 157

Leeds 158

Leeds 159

Leeds 160

Leeds 161

Leeds 162

Leeds 163

Leeds 164

Leeds 165

Racing

Dr Massini gets Derby call again

Chris Hawkins

DR MASSINI, who looked doubtful for next month's Vodka Derby after his off-fore leg on Monday, is back in full training for the Epsom Classic on June 8.

Alex were not unexpected absentees from the 34 still standing their ground.

Bookmakers reacted positively to the news about Dr Massini, with Ladbrokes, who had quoted the unbeaten colt at 4-1 with a run, later introducing him as 5-1.

Stoute, who is recovering from a minor operation on Monday for the removal of a cyst from a knee, was not on hand to see his filly Whitewater Affair with the Triplemint Lure Stakes at Goodwood yesterday.

Whitewater Affair will not be contesting the Oaks, John Greetham, her owner, stating a preference for the Ribblesdale Stakes at Royal Ascot.

There were no major surprises at the latest forfeit stage for the Derby yesterday. Mons, Silver Dome and King

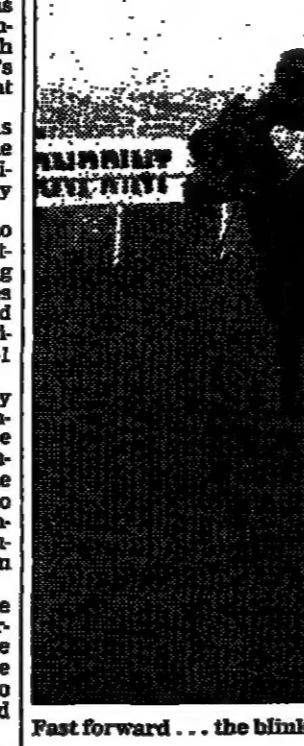
same sire, Machiavellian, as Tuesday's Predominate winner Don Michelletti, whose sister was a mile shorter than that colt.

Poetry had the motion to make light of the deteriorating going to win the opening Metaxa-Serla Maiden Stakes for Mark Tompkins and Philip Robinson, the combination responsible for the 6-1 Derby chance Even Top.

Tompkins and his jockey may not be the most fashionable men in racing, but the form book bears no resemblance to Vogue magazine and Even Top runner-up to Mark Of Esteem in the Guineas and bred to stay, has arguably the best credentials in the race.

"The 2,000 form looks the best to me and I can't see any other horse who has the stamina to go the distance," said Tompkins.

"I'm delighted with Even Top's progress since he won a mile the other day and I might send him a mile and a furlong on the round gallop but no further than that - you don't want to strain them."



Fast forward... the blinkered Montserrat sticks his head out to win the sprint handicap at Goodwood yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH: GARRY WEAVER

Stereo sounds a longshot

WHAT price a Serbian-trained runner in the Vodka Derby. Well, a somewhat conservative 66-1 is available with Hill's about the mystery horse in this year's race.

Mr M Ivanovic and exported to the former Yugoslavia. Although the fee due for the latest acceptance stage has not yet been paid, the British Horseracing Board has no objection to remove Stereo Dancer until Monday June 3.

"This situation is not without precedent and is a consequence of the forfeit entry system," said Paul Greaves, racing director of the BHB.

Debbori to bounce back with Sharp Rebuff

FRANKIE Debbori returns to action with five rides at Goodwood today after serving a 10-day ban and it should not be long before he is back amongst the winners, writes Ron Cox.

His mount in the third race on the card is Sharp Rebuff (3.10), who showed his best form on soft ground last season.

Conditions have come right for Peter Main's five-year-old, who is quite possibly better than ever judging by his promising fifth behind Yeast in the competitive Victoria Cup at Ascot on his reappearance.

Debbori switches to Lear White in the Festival Stakes now that his original ride, Midnight Legend, has been pulled out owing to the change in the going.

Lear White has soft ground form in Italy last year and belied his 50-1 price with a creditable fifth behind Singelip at Sandown last month.

Maralinga (3.40), only ninth in that race, has something to find with Lear White. But he is better judged on last season's form, which included a close third to Luso in the Chester Vase, and he will strip flitter this time.

Goodwood with guide to the form

Table with 2 columns: Race number and details including horse names, jockeys, and trainers.

Table with 2 columns: Race number and details including horse names, jockeys, and trainers.

Table with 2 columns: Race number and details including horse names, jockeys, and trainers.

Table with 2 columns: Race number and details including horse names, jockeys, and trainers.

Table with 2 columns: Race number and details including horse names, jockeys, and trainers.

Newcastle runners and riders

Table with 2 columns: Race number and details including horse names, jockeys, and trainers.

Table with 2 columns: Race number and details including horse names, jockeys, and trainers.

Table with 2 columns: Race number and details including horse names, jockeys, and trainers.

Table with 2 columns: Race number and details including horse names, jockeys, and trainers.

Table with 2 columns: Race number and details including horse names, jockeys, and trainers.

Uttoxeter National Hunt evening programme

Table with 2 columns: Race number and details including horse names, jockeys, and trainers.

Table with 2 columns: Race number and details including horse names, jockeys, and trainers.

Table with 2 columns: Race number and details including horse names, jockeys, and trainers.

Table with 2 columns: Race number and details including horse names, jockeys, and trainers.

Table with 2 columns: Race number and details including horse names, jockeys, and trainers.

Uttoxeter National Hunt card tonight

Table with 2 columns: Race number and details including horse names, jockeys, and trainers.

Table with 2 columns: Race number and details including horse names, jockeys, and trainers.

Table with 2 columns: Race number and details including horse names, jockeys, and trainers.

Table with 2 columns: Race number and details including horse names, jockeys, and trainers.

Table with 2 columns: Race number and details including horse names, jockeys, and trainers.

Uttoxeter National Hunt card tonight

Table with 2 columns: Race number and details including horse names, jockeys, and trainers.

Table with 2 columns: Race number and details including horse names, jockeys, and trainers.

Table with 2 columns: Race number and details including horse names, jockeys, and trainers.

Table with 2 columns: Race number and details including horse names, jockeys, and trainers.

Table with 2 columns: Race number and details including horse names, jockeys, and trainers.

Uttoxeter National Hunt card tonight

Table with 2 columns: Race number and details including horse names, jockeys, and trainers.

Table with 2 columns: Race number and details including horse names, jockeys, and trainers.

Table with 2 columns: Race number and details including horse names, jockeys, and trainers.

Table with 2 columns: Race number and details including horse names, jockeys, and trainers.

Table with 2 columns: Race number and details including horse names, jockeys, and trainers.

Large vertical advertisement on the right side of the page, featuring the text 'min', 'enabl', 'oys w', 'hines', 'uzzle', and '0930 1688'. It includes a logo for 'RACELINE' and 'GOODWOOD'.



